



Hédia GOUASSMYA - ARC EN CIEL kindergarten

Gafsa

Hédia Gouassmya has always loved children and dreamed that one day she would help to improve their education. Now, alongside her role as a mother, 29-year-old Hédia runs a kindergarten in Gafsa where she employs an administrative manager and 8 childcare workers.

"I put all my effort into making this project a reality," said Hédia. "I succeeded thanks to the encouragement and support of my family. My parents believed in me and I wanted to live up to their trust. The road to success has not been without difficulties, but with determination and perseverance I've been able to gradually overcome the challenges I encountered."

In 2013, Hédia graduated in French. Although she did not have experience in childhood education, she decided to launch a kindergarten project and in the absence of a teaching diploma, she recruited a certified director to manage her business.

To minimize costs, Hédia chose a location in the suburbs, quite far away from the city center. Despite running the risk of being located in a neighborhood where it is harder to find customers, soon the good reputation of her kindergarten spread.

"My kindergarten was funded through family support and a self-funded investment of 17,000 Tunisian Dinars which I used to equip three rooms for the learning, play and rest of children aged from 3 to 6 years old, as well the reception."

Following her meeting with the HP LIFE team of the Mashrou3i Project organized by UNIDO and funded by USAID, the Italian Cooperation and the HP Foundation, the project gathered speed to its launch.

"I completed the 27 courses on the HP LIFE e-Learning platform, which enabled me to develop technical skills on the one hand to develop my business plan, and on the other hand to learn the basics to manage the business. I also benefited from the support and personal coaching of the HP LIFE trainer who helped me finalize my business plan."

Hédia talks about her new profession with great dynamism and enthusiasm, "I invest myself daily in the management of the kindergarten, from discussing and answering parents' questions to preparing the education plan of the children which is at the core of our profession."

Alongside the kindergarten, Hédia is very active in associations for human development in Gafsa and has just been elected as the representative of the services sector at UTICA (Tunisian union of commerce and handicrafts industry) in Gafsa to defend the interests of kindergartens.

"My advice to young people who, like me, want to start their own project but have little or no experience is that with willpower and perseverance you can succeed."