

Kita International

In 2011 the youth organization “Jugendwerkstatt Frohe Zukunft” will establish an international multilingual kindergarten. The staff will be an international team including native speakers of the focus languages. Eligible, qualified staff members are being sought, to ensure the kindergarten complies with applicable German laws (Kinderförderungsgesetz KiFöG).

Mehrsprachige Internationale Kindertagesstätte
Edmund-von-Lippmann-Str. 4
06112 Halle (Saale)
Germany

Telephone: +49 (0)3 45 / 1 22 73 61
Contact Person: Petra Altmann
E-Mail: kita-international@jw-frohe-zukunft.de

Location

The Handwerkerhof is at the “Thüringer Bahnhof” Halle (Saale). The kindergarten will be established in the former VENAG Building (old coffee factory).
The building will be renovated in 2010 with a prospective opening date in 2011.

Capacity

180 places for children in 8 separate groups are planned. The kindergarten’s special multilingual concept will include German-English, German-Spanish and/or German-French groups. The designated building offers in a bright and warm atmosphere space for various rooms including a kids’ restaurant, an exercise room, creativity and music rooms and even a snooze nursery.

Opening hours

The usual opening times of the international kindergarten are planned to be 6:00am to 6:00pm.

If necessary more flexible opening times can be arranged in cooperation with the staff.

Personnel

According to German laws on children’s development (Kinderförderungsgesetz KiFöG) staff will be suitable specialists (state-licensed nursery nurses, social educators, BAs). Each of the foreign language groups will be cared for by both a native-speaking and a German colleague.

Target group

All parents who are interested in an early childhood multilingualism concept and children of any nationality.

Costs

Attendance fees are to be set according to the fee schedule of the city of Halle (Saale).

The cost for meals will be announced in due course. Plans are being made to provide fresh food made daily on site.

Multilingualism

Learning language is a key part of humanities biologically-anchored behavioural repertoire. Every child possesses an ample supply of the necessary learning aptitude for language acquisition. This ability is a decisive component and prerequisite for the life-long process of socialization. And human socialization is special in that its success relies largely on the assistance of language(s).

Languages are therefore the most important means for communication and understanding. Against the backdrop of globalized economy and politics it is becoming increasingly important and necessary to come to grips with learning (foreign) languages.

Furthermore the preconception that learning multiple languages before entering primary school leads to learning deficits in other areas, e.g. the development of one's native language, has in our time been refuted. In fact the opposite is true. Children, who have early access to multilingualism develop, in the long run, strong cognitive abilities and are more tolerant towards foreign languages and cultures. With an international multilingual kindergarten we aim to encourage and make a contribution to multilingual and multicultural openness while promoting children's education in a special way.

Foreign languages

When the idea for the opening of a multi-lingual international kindergarten in Halle (Saale) through the cooperation of the DELL firm and its supporters became to take shape, the decision to teach English as a foreign language was a given. DELL recently polled its staff in Halle to find out which other foreign languages should be offered. This resulted in the choice of Spanish and French as additional foreign languages. That also means that we are currently looking intensively for qualified personnel (native speakers) for the kindergarten.

The Immersion principle

The kindergarten will run according the immersion principle. That means that language will not be taught from the front, as in a classroom setting, but rather through interaction with native speakers.

Immersion means literally „to dive into“; by this principle it is possible to dive into a

language, an attitude of life and a culture. The (foreign) language will be absorbed naturally day to day. For this it is important the children can clearly associate their caregivers with the caregivers' respective language, i.e. English for the native English speaker, Spanish for the Spanish speaker, etc. The children need to know that they can rely on this association and it is extremely important for the learning of (foreign) languages.

Funding

Funding for entire project has been secured through a public-private partnership, which has been set up according to the terms of funding for kindergartens in the city of Halle (Saale).