

Our concept in brief

Our "Kinderhaus" comprises a total of four groups:

- Two kindergarten groups (3-6 year-olds)
- One "U3" group (1-2 year-olds)
- One after-school care group (6-14 year-olds)

Our family centre is an important factor in the day-to-day lives of children resident in our catchment area. Our aim is to offer these children and their families a space of their own on our premises, and to encourage them to avail themselves of further institutions and contacts, such as municipal libraries, early-learning centres, childminder services, etc.

Since ours is a church-run centre in which the children spend a large part of their day, we place a particular emphasis not just on social learning, but also on religious aspects.

"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
(Mark 10:14)

Special Kinderhaus worship services, held monthly in the neighbouring church hall, are an important part of our set-up, allowing the children to experience church, to hear stories about Jesus, to ask questions, and to share with each other.



But, far from being restricted to an exclusively protestant viewpoint, our work is carried out in an ecumenical spirit and across all religious boundaries. Special religious festivals are marked by worship prepared and celebrated together and held in the Pauluskirche in Bochum's city-centre. In addition, we offer an annual "Children's Bible Week" on our premises, culminating in family worship held centrally in the Pauluskirche.

Holistic learning

"Learning" is a holistic process, involving the head and the heart as well as the hands. It is our intention to support the children in their emotional development, giving them our personal attention in an atmosphere characterised by caring and by trust.

Supplementary to what they learn in the family home, we are there to introduce the children to social behaviour, independence, and personal responsibility. Sensory experience plays an important role, and is a means whereby we seek to facilitate the children's mental and emotional development. Much of our work with the children operates on several levels and is geared to promoting their creativity.

Gross and fine motor skills, speech development, conceptual thinking, powers of concentration and learning abilities - these are all factors which we encourage, support, and promote. Some of the means by which we pursue these goals are the "Entenland" ("Duckland") programme for conceptual thinking and colour recognition, "Sprachspiele mit Marion" ("Word games with Marion"), and the Bielefeld Screening pre-school "Hören, Lauschen, Lernen" test ("Hearing, Listening, Learning") ...

In our "Hand in Hand" family centre, we have created spaces that children can readily grasp and in which they can move around and interact freely, in accordance with their respective needs and abilities. Our spacious outdoor play area, for example, offers plenty of opportunity for games and physical movement. Once a week we also use the nearby church hall for rhythmic exercises, and we have access to the gym at the Drusenberg primary school.

We provide our day-care, lunchtime stay-over, and school children with varied daily lunches, and no day goes by without fruit and fresh vegetable snacks being made available.

We offer guidance for the school children in our care as they do their homework, as well as offering them stimuli for their free-time activities. In doing so, we take particular care to ensure that their afternoon play compensates adequately for the general immobility of the mornings they have spent in school.

Playfully broadening horizons

A further major focus of our work is on pre-school children. Various projects prepare the children step-by-step for increasing personal independence, and they learn, while at play, to broaden their horizons.

For families, there is also an open invitation to participate in courses, including German language courses and knitting courses, the Parents' Café or the Café Corner, as well as our thematic evenings with their opportunities for information and mutual exchange.

