

# **Concept KinderHOUSE e.V.**

## **As of 1.1.2008**

### **I General Information**

#### **1. Who is our Day Care Centre aimed at?**

KinderHOUSE e.V. is a bilingual (German/English) day care centre caring for and catering to 20 children between 6 (or in first grade) and 12 years old. Children can join at any time during the school year. The children are cared for by an Early Childhood Educator and an Early Childhood Educator assistant as well as two part time substitutes. The staff is comprised of both German and English native speakers who communicate with the children in their native language.

#### **2. Opening Hours**

- 11:30 am until 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.
- It opens at 8:00 am during school holidays.

#### **3. Placement is determined by the following criteria:**

- The parents must be willing to show initiative in helping run the centre and contribute actively and continually.
- The parents and children should share the goals and interests of our establishment.
- The child should fit in with the existing group (age, gender etc.).
- Siblings are given preference, provided they fulfill the criteria.
- We strive to create a group in which about 30% of the children are English native speakers.

Upon enquiry, the parents and the children will be invited to meet with at least one representative from the board of directors as well as one staff member. After the meeting, both sides are free to make a decision.

#### **4. Fees**

€175 per month for the care of one child.

An estimated further €60 is required for food.

There is also a yearly membership fee of €50.

## **5. Food**

First and foremost, our children should receive a nutritious diet. This includes fruits and vegetables as well as few sweets. We shy away from extremes such as a purely vegetarian diet; therefore French Fries and sweets (for example birthday cakes) will be served every now and then. Special dietary requirements stemming from religious and/or health requirements will, of course, be taken into account and catered to as far as possible. This can, however, mean that the parents need to provide the child with appropriate food themselves. If the parents provide all of the food for their child, the food fee is not applicable.

## **II Pedagogical Concept for the KinderHOUSE e.V.**

### **1. Our goals**

We strive to foster the development of the child as appropriate for his/her age group. We cater towards the individual needs of the child as far as it is possible within the overall group. The following goals are important for us:

- **Teaching to become independent**

In our opinion, the caregivers are not there to make every single decision for the child. Instead, the children are encouraged to judge the situation themselves, and when required, come to their own conclusion, for which they will also learn to be held responsible.

- **Fostering social development (e.g. the ability to be critical or to deal with conflicts.)**

For example, the children learn to say, “no” without becoming an “outsider” or unacceptable to the group. This ability also improves the child's selfconfidence. At the same time, the children learn to respect the freedom and the limits of the other children, and to resolve possible conflicts that arise.

- **Fostering the child's individual personal development**

(e.g. creativity and the use of sensory and motor skills)

- **Fostering an understanding of our society and the environment.**

- KinderHOUSE aims at offering an education complimentary to that which the children receive at school. We want our children to like coming here and to feel at home.

- For some parents, it may be a new concept that a child's "free

time" now plays a much more important role than it used to in Kindergarten. "Free time" refers to the time that is not filled with a strict program, i.e. when the children are free to choose what they want to do without any pressure. "Free time" is however, in no case, lost or wasted time. In accordance with our aim of fostering independence the children decide themselves what they would like to do with their time and the caregivers are available with advice and direction. Also the children need time to themselves after the structured and intense learning experience at school.

- Dealing successfully with a variety of situations, which occur at any given time is often an enormous challenge for the caregiver. Therefore, the co-operation between the parents and the caregivers is very important. In a lot of situations, there is no perfect solution and, therefore, a perfect solution should not be sought after. Instead, it is much more important to treat the child with tender loving care as appropriate to his/her individual personality and age and, in doing so, helping the child along the way to becoming independent individuals who respect themselves and others.

## **2. Regular Activities**

Of course homework is a part of the daily routine. Our goal is to motivate and encourage the child's enthusiasm for school. With the exception of Fridays, homework is to be done every day. The children will, however, not be forced to do their homework. Instead, they are encouraged to do their homework on their own initiative. The staff seek regular contact with the respective teacher/s at the schools.

Besides homework, there will be varying activities in German and in English. Participation takes place on a voluntary basis, which means that the children are encouraged to participate but never forced.

### **These activities include:**

- Arts and crafts
- Physical education (takes place, in part, outside)
- Group games
- Computer work
- Field Trips
- Cultural activities

- Parties

Activities also take place in age related groups and projects (e.g. learning a play together). This should not only award the child with a feeling of achievement, but also give them an understanding of the procedures involved in this type of project. In accordance with the situational approach the child's current needs and wishes are taken into consideration. Themes and ideas that come from the child will be discussed. Sometimes this may mean that a planned project may be altered or, in some cases, even completely abandoned. Some of the activities are directed by “external caregivers” so that the staff can have the opportunity to foster internal exchanges (e.g. attend additional staff meetings). Furthermore, regular excursions will be organized with Fridays being the best day here because no homework needs to be done.

### **3. An Example of the Daily Routine**

**11:00-1:00** Children arrive (in accordance to when school is out); free-play and exchange of thoughts/news

**1:10 - 1:40** pm Lunch

**1:40 - 2:40** pm Homework

**As of 2:40** pm Free-play and voluntary participation in daily activities, outings, playground...

**4:30 - 5:00** pm Farewells for the day

**LERNEN = LEARN  
+ SPASS = FUN  
+ SPIEL = PLAY  
= KinderHOUSE**