



**Education from the start -  
A place for families**



## Who we are

Kinderwelt Hamburg e.V. was founded by the managing directors Ursula Smischliaw and Jörg Brettschneider in 1992 as association of the independent children and youth welfare. Today, more than 300 employees work in the 18 day-care-centers in Hamburg which provide about 1400 child care places as well as in the central kitchen and the headquarters. We are a member of the Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband.

## Our philosophy

We stand for a mundane and humanistic idea of man. Democratic structures, transparency, and having a voice are essential elements of our work and our company. The appreciation of each child and its potential is the main focus of our actions, which is a contribution – from our point of view – to a liberal and democratic society.

## Our concept

Our institutions work in compliance with a concept that considers the approach of progressive education as well as results from the field of neurobiology and educational research. The principles of the Open Pedagogy and the content of the Hamburger Bildungsempfehlungen (recommendations of Hamburg) are guiding elements for us. Positive relations are the key for educational processes: That is why attentiveness, dialogue, and a trustful atmosphere are of great importance to us.

## Education from the beginning

Our day-care centers are educational institutions. Education is a lifelong process which starts with the birth of a child and lasts the whole life. This development cannot be “controlled” externally as it is created by the child itself through the individual way of dealing with the environment. The educators’ duty is to understand, to escort, and to promote the individual development process of each child.

## Bilingualism through immersion

Since 2004 the English language is equally to German part of everyday life at Kinderwelt Hamburg e.V. On the basis of the immersive acquisition of language, children can dive into the English language and access it in a natural way. On the principle “one person, one language”, English-speaking pedagogues organize all activities with the children in English. Just as one learns the native language, the children access and learn the new language in specific situations in a playful way.

## A place for families

Our day-care centers are places where people can meet. It is very important to us that children and their families are taken care of according to their needs. We also provide support and help outside the day-care center. Our houses are spirited places which are utilized regularly outside the opening hours.



Fotos: Marcel Bock



## Participation

Participation and democratic structures are essential working structures at Kinderwelt Hamburg e.V. This applies to all levels and to the creation of processes with children, parents, and colleagues. We take wishes and needs of the children seriously and give them the opportunity to participate actively in the creation of daily activities. As we live democracy every day, we strengthen the self – and co-determination and communicate learning competences. Participation is the key to education and democracy.

## Educational partnership

Our cooperation with parents and pedagogues is based on partnership, and the transparency of our pedagogical actions as well as mutual appreciation is well understood. The parents are always welcome to accompany the children in their everyday life and to get involved in festivals and other activities. We offer parent-teacher conferences and informal talks where one can exchange ideas about the concept and ask questions. It is very important to us to have a common understanding and a mutual acceptance, so that we can further the development of the child in the best and most cooperative way.

## Learning in experience rooms

We design our houses based on the idea of a workshop which help the children to develop self-determination and creativity. We offer the

children, depending on the focus of the day-care center, art studios, rooms for physical expression, children restaurants, wood-workshops, rooms for role playing, language, music, sciences and media as well as rooms to move and play in the water. In this spirit, we organize specific learning opportunities and projects. Many of our day-care centers also have a landscape that is designed close to nature.

## Educational scope

Our pedagogical work focuses on the holistic and individual education of each single child. The following aspects are linked:

- Language, literacy, bilingualism
- Esthetic education (and production)
- Music, rhythm, dance and theater
- Quiet and relaxation time
- Movement and psychomotricity
- Scientific education
- Experiences with the media

## Most important to us:

- Pedagogy of trust
- No segregation/integration
- Pedagogy that considers gender
- Conflict learning
- Organization of transition to school
- Supervision and documentation
- Reflection and cooperation within the team
- Networking in the district
- Scientific supervision



## Food

Food stands for pleasure and sociality and also possesses a healthy aspect as early nutrition habits form eating behavior. We emphasize a healthy, balanced alimentation and also take the personal preferences and needs of the children into account. Our foods and ingredients are from 100 percent biological degradation and are cooked in the Kinderwelt-Kitchen and sometimes on-site and served in the children's restaurant.

## Ecology and sustainability

Socially fair and ecological actions belong to our explicit fundamental principles. Children should develop a sense for nature and for a responsible contact with the environment and the accessible resources. Ecological projects, landscapes designed close to nature, use of renewable energy and ways of construction to preserve resources are of great importance to us.

## Our employees

Our qualified pedagogues know the development of the children and possess the methodical competence. We offer internal and external professional and continuing training for conceptual and professional further development. Housekeeping employees and Zivildienstleistende (people carrying out civil service) support us in our daily work.

## Quality management

The development of our educational quality is ensured by a continuous quality management procedure. The pedagogues exchange regularly experiences in quality meetings and develop new quality standards. The day-care centers are regularly certified by an evaluation procedure of the Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband.

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**Kinderwelt**  
**Hamburg e.v.**  
Bilinguale Kindertagesstätten

## Day-care goes school

In September 2008 we opened the first Flachsland Future School. Here, 60 day-care children and 120 primary school children can learn together. A secondary school will follow. More information: [www.flachsland-hamburg.de](http://www.flachsland-hamburg.de)

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