

Educational Concept for the “Stephanus” Playgroup

1. Mission Statement and Educational Approach

Our “Stephanus” playgroup is aimed at children from 2.5 years old until they enter regular kindergarten, placing the child at the center of all activities. We follow a holistic, child-centered approach that supports and promotes the individual development of each child. Our guiding principles are participation, self-efficacy, and attachment orientation.

2. Objectives

- Promote social, emotional, motor, and cognitive development.
- Integrate language development into daily routines to expand vocabulary and communication skills.
- Encourage movement to support motor skills and body awareness.
- Teach healthy eating habits and foster a positive relationship with food.
- Promote creativity.

3. Focus Areas

3.1 Everyday Language Development

Language is the key to the world. Our language support is embedded in daily activities and is playful:

- Singing and rhyming: Daily songs, finger plays, and rhymes expand vocabulary.
- Reading and storytelling: Stories stimulate imagination and enhance language comprehension. Books are read interactively.
- Dialogue and role play: Children learn to express themselves and understand others. Language is fostered through play.
- Accompanying language models: Playgroup leaders name actions and objects in daily routines to support children’s language development. They provide corrective feedback if necessary and elaborate on children’s statements to encourage dialogue.
- Consideration of multilingualism: Children with other first languages are actively included in daily playgroup activities and their languages are valued.

3.2 Movement Development

Movement is essential for healthy development. We offer:

- Movement games: Dances, circle games, and coordination exercises promote coordination and endurance.
- Free play indoors and outdoors: Children explore their physical abilities independently. A garden is available.
- Nature experiences: When possible, natural materials are provided for play and movement.

- Equipment and obstacle courses: Indoor activity areas allow children to climb, balance, and jump creatively and safely.

3.3 Healthy Nutrition

Conscious nutrition promotes concentration and well-being. Our playgroup emphasizes:

- Shared meals: Morning snacks are eaten together in a relaxed atmosphere, promoting social skills such as consideration, sharing, and listening.
- Fresh and if possible seasonal foods: Fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products are central.
- Nutrition education: Children learn playfully to name, smell, taste, and prepare food.
- Parental involvement: Recipes and nutrition tips are shared to support healthy eating at home.

3.4 Creativity

Craft and creative activities are always available. The focus is on the process of being creative, not the final product. Children are encouraged and guided to express their own creativity.

4. Collaboration with Parents

- Development discussions can be requested at any time and are guaranteed at least once a year in the second semester. These meetings focus on the child's progress and needs.
- Joint events are organized, f. ex. Christmas baking.

5. Conclusion

Our "Stephanus" playgroup provides a loving, safe, and stimulating environment where children can learn, grow, and develop through play. By integrating language development, movement, creativity, and healthy nutrition, we lay the foundation for their future development. The child is always at the center, appreciated and supported in their uniqueness.