

Pedagogical concept

Pedagogical basics

Children and educators define the learning process together:

- Children create their own picture of the world. Educators accompany them on this path.
- Good educators make it possible for children to gather a wide variety of experiences and support children in the learning process.
- Children also learn with and from one another and exchange ideas.

Children are aware *that* they are learning something:

- Together, educators and children not only address content and activities, but also reflect on the learning process.
- The documentation of experimentation activities through drawings, photos, video recordings, and similar tools supports the children's learning process.

What practices are most important when researching and experimenting?

Enter into the world in which children live!

Every activity with scientific and technical topics starts from the world in which the children live. Take up the questions the children ask during the process. Wherever possible, the experimentation is linked with other fields of education and presented in terms of larger contexts.

Build on what the children already know!

Pay close attention to when children talk about their experiences, observe them, and ask questions about their assumptions.

Talk with the children!

Dialog helps children move on to the next stage of development. That is why it is better not to explain too much, but to ask the children about their ideas and associations.

Encourage the children to think!

It is not a problem if children initially express a supposedly “wrong” idea. From time to time make the children aware of things that do not fit in with their assumptions. In this way, you will encourage the children to question their concept, adapt their idea, or even to come up with a new theory on their own.

Additional literature on the topic:

Fthenakis, W. E., Wendell, A., Eitel, A., Daut, M., Schmitt, A. (editors.): Natur-Wissen schaffen. Volume 3: Frühe naturwissenschaftliche Bildung. Bildungsverlag EINS, Troisdorf 2009.

Haus der kleinen Forscher (Little Scientists' House) foundation (publisher): Pädagogischer Ansatz der Stiftung “Haus der kleinen Forscher”. Anregungen für die Lernbegleitung in Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Technik. Berlin 2013.