

Learning French for the Smallest

„Mum, Dad and Me“ started in the German-French Kindergarten in Wuppertal



If you enter the German-French Kindergarten in Wuppertal, you will hardly believe being in Germany any longer. Everywhere you can hear children talking in French. The kindergarten charts are leaded by „La famille Tortue“. How is this possible?

The kindergarten is bilingual. Two teachers look after one group. One of them speaks only French with the children, the other one only German. This is the best frame to install the Toddlers' Club in Wuppertal. The first „Toddlers' Club“ started in September in the context of an EU-Lingua Project. Two hours a week children aged two to three years have the possibility to make first contacts with the French language, together with their parents. But are children in this age able to learn foreign languages?

„Especially children are able to learn a new language“, says Birgit Oberhofer from the Paritaetische Akademie. She coordinates the EU-Project in Germany. „Children discover her mother tounge in this age and can learn linguistic patterns very easy. “ The new language is brought to life in the language clubs by songs and fairy tales. In Wuppertal accompanies Léo, a raven, the children in the world of French.

At the beginnig of every lesson Léo greets the children and asks them, how they are. Léo speaks only French. He enjoys dancing. In the first lesson he sang a song with the children and danced with them. „This is special about this method“, explains Mrs. Ruel, who offers the language clubs in the kindergarden. „The children discover French in the same way like their mother tongue, by movements, music, repetition of words and rhythm.“

Special about this EU project is, that parents and children learn together. Studying together, exchange experiences - this is what connects also the project partners from five different countries. Mrs Ruel enjoys the cooperation. "During our last project meeting in Prague I would have remained the kindest in the facility to do an internship there ", reports Mrs Ruel enthusiastically.

Birgit Oberhofer hopes that this project sets a signal. „We hope that many kindergardens will take part in this programm. Languages will play a great role in the future. Children get

by early language learning many possibilities and better chances to start well in life ."

Questions? Contact:

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