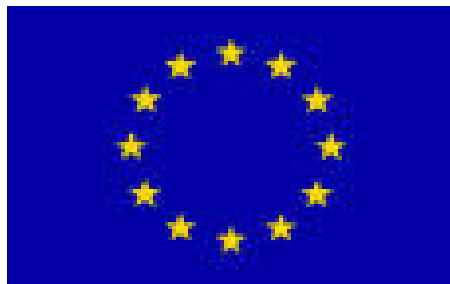


The Aim of the European Schools

The words which express the essential aims of the European Schools have been sealed, in parchment, into the foundation stones of all the schools:

“Educated side by side, untroubled from infancy by divisive prejudices, acquainted with all that is great and good in different cultures, it will be borne in them as they mature that they belong together. Without ceasing to look to their own lands with love and pride, they will become in mind Europeans, schooled and ready to complete and consolidate the work of the fathers before them, to bring into being a united and thriving Europe.”



Europäische Schule Frankfurt- Kindergarten

Our Aims

In the Kindergarten we are aware that the children come to us with many skills learned already, we aim to develop these further and help to equip all children with the necessary tools they will need for learning in the primary school. We aim to provide a stimulating environment in which the children can develop and flourish and where they can cultivate a positive and enthusiastic attitude to school and learning.

The Kindergarten section of the school covers these broad areas of learning:

1. Creative learning, ie. art and craft, creative language, drama and self-expression, music and dance.
2. Investigative learning, ie. Natural science, science related to the inanimate, mathematics, the lives of men and women in the world and other topics.
3. The foundations for the acquisition of skills in language, mathematics and physical control.

Alongside this broad programme, attention is given to the social and moral development of the children.

The Setting

The Kindergarten is on the ground and first floor of the European School and is made up of four language sections: French, Italian, German and English. Each section has a seconded teacher and an assistant. The English and German Sections have been split in to two classes due to large numbers. The Kindergarten classes share an outside play area with sandpits and a playground grassy area, a large meeting hall and a kitchen where the groups cook. The Kindergarten children eat lunch together in the main school canteen. Food is served to the children at their tables by the Kindergarten staff.

Admission to the Kindergarten

To be admitted to the Kindergarten, a child must be 4 years old in the civil year in which the school year begins. Children have to be registered through the school office.

Organisation

Children can be dropped off in the large Kindergarten hall "little aula" from 8.10am where there are always two of the teachers on supervision duty. Classes begin at 8.30. It is important for your child to be on time in order for them to settle in to the activities and learn a good school routine. The class teachers plan activities to develop all pre school skills and the children work in a variety of situations including teacher led and independent groups. The children have breakfast together which is an important social time. The children have a supervised morning play outside from 10.00-10.30. Activities then continue until lunchtime at 11.30. This is followed by a further opportunity to play outside if the weather permits. On the three long days the children have time to relax in the 'pillow room' before the afternoon activities begin. The afternoon session finishes at 3.00 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at 12.30 on Thursday and Friday. Please wait for your children in the playground outside their classroom door.

The Daily Routine

The four language sections plan themes and topics together and liaise on a daily basis to ensure a consistent approach. The daily routine in each class, however, varies slightly according to individual teaching styles, cultural variations and the needs of the children. Generally though, the children follow the routine as described previously.

Physical Education

The kindergarten currently offers one gym session per week in a purpose built gym room. Children will be expected to wear comfortable clothes on gym day. Please see the Section Notice Board for details.

European Hours

As part of the European Curriculum and very much in line with the spirit of the European Schools, the kindergarten, whenever possible, endeavours to give the children the opportunity to hear other languages in a practical way. This could mean through story telling, craft lessons and/or music sessions. These are usually organised after Christmas once the children are fully settled in to their classes.

School Visits

As part of the curriculum the children have the opportunity to take part in various class visits. In order for your child to participate, a permission form must be filled in. Further information and forms will be given out at the Parents' Evening in September.

Assessment

Assessment is an on-going activity by the pre-school staff. It includes discussions with parents, listening to the children and observation of children at play and doing specific activities. The aim is to inform planning and enable each child to reach their full potential.

Learning Support

Children are informally assessed on an ongoing basis by the pre-school staff. This can sometimes highlight some difficulties that the child may be experiencing within the classroom. These difficulties can usually be addressed within the normal working day. If it is felt that a child would benefit from a more focussed input to develop a skill or skills, then there is an opportunity for the child to receive 'Learning Support', parents would be involved at all stages.

Mother Tongue Tuition

Children of Category 1 and 2 who have no language section of their own, on request of the family and depending on the availability of qualified teachers, have an opportunity to attend 'Mother Tongue' classes. These are organised during the working day and the number of sessions depends on the number of children in the group.

Transfer to the Primary School/Age of Transfer

Kindergarten and Primary teachers liaise regularly to ensure the smooth transition in to Year 1. Children transferring have the opportunity to participate in a 'Graduation Ceremony' in the summer term where they are officially welcomed by their new teachers, given a certificate and a 'schultüte'. These are traditional in Germany and are filled with sweets and school pencils for the child's first day at 'big school'.

In some cases and with the consultation of teachers, the deputy head and the parents it may be appropriate for a child to stay a year longer in the Kindergarten.

After school activities and Childminding

The Familien Service provides after school activities every day until 5.30pm. Your child can be enrolled to attend activities such as judo, ballet, theatre and gym. For further information please use the following contact numbers:

Björn Seehausen - 0163 3202005

Anja Stüber - 0163 3202025

E-mail: www.chmi.de or www.familien-service.de

Ways you can help your child

In the Kindergarten we very much view parents as our partners in the education of the children. The children will be covering a broad and balanced pre-school curriculum, but you can encourage and develop your child's skills further by sharing books, playing 'I Spy' and counting games and songs and encouraging them to talk about their day. The class teacher will be happy to give you more ideas if necessary.

Formal progress reports are not given out at the end of the year in the pre-primary but informal verbal updates of children's progress can be arranged. The teachers are usually available on the last Thursday of every month for individual meetings - please arrange this in advance with the teacher.

What will your child need?

We would appreciate it if you could provide the following items for your child:

- A nutritious snack and drink for morning break time.
- A small hand towel/ flannel.
- A family sized box of tissue paper.
- Slippers.
- A small pack of wet wipes (feuchtes Toilettenpapier).
- Rain boots for wet weather
- 2 passport sized photos of your child.

Please ensure that all items are labelled clearly with your child's name!

Useful Information

Primary school secretary: 069 92887418 Monday - Wednesday 8.30 - 13.30
e-mail: laura.melara_duerbec@eursc.org

In case of illness please contact the school nurse Monica Schön
Tel: 069 92887433 monica.schoen@eursc.org

We look forward to meeting you and your children in September!

Europäische Schule Frankfurt, Praunheimer Weg 126, D-60439 Frankfurt am Main
Tel: 069 9388 740 Fax 069 9288 7474 Website: www.eurosc.org