

It's all about atmosphere

Parent-Teacher-Relationships in Heinrich-Böll-Schule



Parents of our pupils often have made bad experiences in their lives.
Because of that, they often...

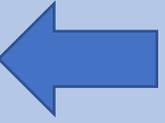
- are afraid of authorities
- feel misunderstood
- feel helpless and left alone
- do not feel understood at all
- feel guilty if their child misbehaves
- feel at their mercy
- feel desperate
- feel tired and resigned
- see in other people who "interfere" in their families opponents who have to be fought
- have great doubts about their child's chances of success in school
- ...



Our idea:

Developing a relationship on the same eye-level
through creating a welcoming atmosphere of trust and respect

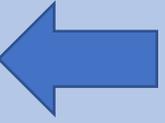




Preparation and Arrival

- Families get welcomed and well informed before they make their decision for our school.
- All class teachers contact families before children come to our school, invite families for a meeting and take doubts and fears seriously.
- First day is a welcoming party not only for pupils but also for parents, families and friends.
- We start from zero. Failings in former schools or kindergarten are not longer important.
- During the first days, weeks and months parents get a lot of positive feedback about the doing of their children in school. Daily contact is not exceptional.

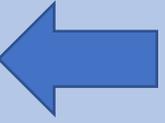




Website

- Clear and well structured / many pictures
 - parents who are not familiar with written language feel also addressed
- Beside information focus on illustration of daily work and teaching projects
 - show families our and their children's daily activities "School is not a secret but a positive theme for communication in families and between parents and teachers"
- Parents get informed when a new post concerning their child is published on the website
 - Website stays in the awareness of families, they feel connected with live in school

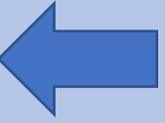




Events

- Parents participate on planning, organisation and realisation of school events like school festivals, theatre/ musical performances, etc.
 - Parents and teachers share responsibility and work.
- School gets decorated for parent welcoming events.
- Beside the heart of an event parents get feasted and there is always time for a chat.
- During school festival we started with the idea of a “family activity room” where open offers bring families together by participating on an activity. These activities were parts of lessons before.
 - Parents get a real insight into teaching activities / transparency is given / trust can be built up
- Sadly past: Family gardening
 - great fun, a big chance for changing roles and a wonderful result



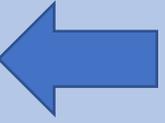


Everyday communication

"Set off together – We are one team"

- Regular warmhearted feedback about the doing of the child in school. Can be a good starting point for exchange, too.
 - Communication book for each child (not for using in crisis!!)
 - phone
 - schul.cloud (like Whats-App but safe in data protection)
 - ✓ Sending of photos possible, which is a very good possibility for feedback about successful activities and enjoying situations in school
 - ✓ Low threshold offer for parents who are shy in written communication (voice messages) or respect privacy concerning using mobiles
- Always open offer to ask for a meeting in school or for a date for a longer phone call
- The demand on ourselves: Everyday Communication should be the base for a trustful relationship which is strong enough to make cooperation possible even when the child struggles and get into a crises





Meetings

- Every 12 weeks extended meetings with each family
 - Teachers take time to listen to parents' needs
 - Exchange on the same eye-level "We are a team for the child"
 - Support for the families (practical ideas, contact to external experts/authorities, etc..)
 - Transparency about development of the child and the work of the teachers
- The demand on ourselves: Regular meetings should be the base for a trustful relationship which is strong enough to make cooperation possible even when the child struggles and get into a crisis

