



INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF NATURE
AND FOREST KINDERGARTENS

III. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
November 15–17, 2025 in Berlin

Presentations & Workshops



**Bundesverband
der Natur- und
Waldkindergärten**

**Always
outdoors**
more important than
ever – worldwide



INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the III. International Congress of the BvNW

Moderation: Manulela Hähn, Christoph Rullmann

The world is changing – and with it our responsibility to enable children to experience nature. With our congress **'Always outdoors – more important than ever – worldwide'**, we want to show how important nature and forest kindergartens are today: as places of learning, shelters and sources of inspiration.

You can look forward to exciting impulses, international exchange and practical ideas – competently accompanied by Manuela Hähn, committed specialist consultant and expert for parent initiatives and forest kindergartens, and Christoph Rullmann, Federal Managing Director of the German Forest Protection Association and passionate advocate for the forest and its educational work.

Let's spread the spark of enthusiasm for outdoor education together – for a healthy, curious and nature-loving childhood!

Manuela Hähn holds a B.A. in Social Work/Social Pedagogy, is a social manager and an experienced specialist in child protection. She has been a volunteer in the world of associations and boards, e.g. of parent-initiated daycare centres, for 25 years. Since 2017, she has been head of the specialist counselling department and is part of the overall management of the Kinderladen-Initiative Hannover e. V. She has also been a board member of the Landesverband der Elterninitiativen Niedersachsen und Bremen (LagE e. V.) since 2017. She is particularly committed to parents' initiatives and forest daycare centres in their various forms. She has been working for the federal association at conferences with workshops for 11 years and will not only be moderating the annual general meeting for the 10th time this year, but also the symposium for the 6th time. What is special is that this year she is moderating her first International Congress for the Federal Association.

To **Christoph Rullmann** the forest is important and he has been connected to it since his youth. Growing up as the grandson of a forester in Hessen, the forest and its adventures were omnipresent. This motivated him to study forestry in Munich. After working at university and for other organisations, he has been the Federal Managing Director of the Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald (German Forest Protection Association) for more than 15 years. With its 25,000 members in 350 groups, the SDW is committed to bringing people and forests closer together. Educational work is the key to achieving sustainable forest knowledge. The SDW is involved in numerous projects and initiatives for forest-related educational work. Forest and nature kindergartens play a particularly important role in this. Christoph wants to motivate people for the forest and its protection and take them along on the path to a greener forest future.

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The feeling of connection and freedom as a basic prerequisite for the development of a child's brain.
Why forest kindergartens are so well suited for this.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Gerald Hüther, Germany

DE Presentation in german, translator on site

All children are born with two basic needs – the need for closeness, security and connectedness, and the need for autonomy and freedom. However, they can only develop the genetically inherent potential to develop a highly networked brain that is capable of learning throughout their lives if these two basic needs are satisfied. If this is not the case, every child looks for alternative solutions in their own way that are suitable for calming down the incoherent, irritating and enormously energy-consuming conditions that arise from these unfulfilled basic needs.

Forest kindergartens offer the opportunity to prevent such entanglements and, if necessary, to resolve them. With competent guidance from loving carers, children can experience a deep sense of connection and security in nature and at the same time satisfy their second basic need for their own creative freedom better than in any playroom and with all the play equipment advertised as educationally valuable. When playing together carefree in the great outdoors, such children no longer have to suppress their innate joy of discovery and desire to create. This broadens their view, they become more and more open to new learning experiences, acquire a variety of practical life skills, become more resilient, fall ill less often and are also less easily seduced later on.

Prof. Dr. Gerald Hüther is a neurobiologist, bestselling author and one of the most important driving forces behind the development of potential in the German-speaking world. As the initiator and chairman of the Academy for Potential Development, he connects people who want to find new ways of living and working together. His insights, disseminated in books, lectures and via the media, are profound and lovingly radical. He is the initiator of the Academy for Loving Children (kinderliebe.org)

www.gerald-huether.de



Breathing Earth-Time: Engaging in small acts of resistance in chaotic and uncertain times

Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Henderson, Scotland

A loss of indigenous pathways, which once guided our ancestors' relationship with Mother Earth, has had devastating consequences for the well-being of our planet and her people. How did we get to this point in our history and how might we, as practitioners, address the current crises of sustainability, loss of biodiversity, mental health, and wellbeing?

Elizabeth will share the pathway of her ancestors, using the Celtic Wheel of the Year, to encourage you to walk and breathe Earth-Time on a journey towards a re-enchantment with Mother Earth and our more-than-human kin. In times of chaos and uncertainty adopting such a perspective constitutes an act of resistance, countering the more destructive narratives of our time.

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson is an experienced practitioner, manager, lecturer, trainer, researcher, and author with more than 40 years of experience in education. Her work currently focuses on sustainability, indigenous pathways, and the Celtic Wheel of the Year. She is the founder of several innovative projects in Scotland including "Nature Nurture", which she created for 2-3-year-old children from challenging backgrounds. She has also contributed to Scottish Government documents on outdoor learning and play.

Elizabeth is an Imagination Doula and her work is underpinned by love, and the understanding that we help children build their interior worlds in early childhood. When Elizabeth was 3 years-old the flowers whispered their secrets to her, igniting a life-long, loving relationship with Nature.

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Magic happens Outdoors!

The importance of being outdoors and how to plan it. Finnish examples of outdoor early childhood education

Speaker: Ulla Myllyniemi, Finland

This presentation discusses the benefits and necessity of being outdoors, the importance of nature connectedness, and offers a practical model and tool on how to design pedagogical nature education. It includes a brief overview of Finnish nature kindergartens and their practices.

Ulla Myllyniemi is an environmental and sustainability education trainer at Sykli Environmental College as well as an outdoor education expert, classroom teacher, special needs teacher and nature and wilderness guide. She has degrees in education, special education and environmental education as well as a qualification as a nature and wilderness guide. She is the author and editor of several books on outdoor education and has participated in numerous national and international projects, seminars and workshops on environmental education and outdoor learning. She is also a founding member of the Finnish Association for Outdoor Education and is involved in various networks and organisations. She has been honoured with the Vihti INNO Award for her contributions to outdoor education.

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Forest kindergarten in uncertain times Finding an anchor in a chaotic reality

Speaker: Ron Meltzer, Israel

For seven years, Ron led “Keshet Kindergarten” in Mitzpe Ramon – the first public forest kindergarten in Israel. Under his leadership, the kindergarten became a recognized experimental model by the Ministry of Education and later served as one of the reference models for Israel’s “Kindergarten of the Future” initiative.

Today, Ron lectures and trains educators across Israel on topics such as forest education, educational innovation, the impact of nature on the well-being of children and adults, and the development of pedagogical frameworks for outdoor learning. He mentors educators, develops forest pedagogy, and leads the training center for the Ganey Ya'ar network, which currently supports over 50 educational institutions across 12 municipalities.

Ron Meltzer is the founder of the forest education approach in Israel and the initiator of “Ganey Ya'ar” (“Forest Kindergartens”), an organization dedicated to integrating nature-based education into the public education system. He holds a B.Ed. in Education from Kaye Academic College and is a graduate of the Introductory Year in Anthroposophical Education, the Guardians of the Forest program, and studies in dialogical education with educational philosopher Dr. Danny Lasri. Ron is also a lecturer in the M.A. program in Environmental Education at Kibbutzim College, a recipient of the 2016 Recanati Award for Educational Entrepreneurship, and the author of the book *Making the World Your Home*, which weaves personal narrative with educational philosophy and practice.

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Impoverishment of relationships, disembodiment and de-objectification of childhood?

Effects of digital products on children and parents

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Joachim Bauer, Germany

 **Lecture in german, translator on site**

From the first day of life, children need the resonance of their environment for their healthy development – see Joachim Bauer: 'Wie wir werden wer wir sind', Heyne Verlag. Children develop a healthy 'self' not only by being sufficiently mirrored by their parents and pedagogical companions in response to their expressions of life.

Equally important are resonance experiences in nature – see Joachim Bauer: 'Fühlen was die Welt fühlt', Heyne Verlag. Children can only experience who they are and how the world works through physical encounters with their peers and with the diverse offerings of the natural environment. Children get their first idea of what gravity is by falling and getting up again; what speed is by running; what resistance is by testing themselves against their peers and testing their strength in nature; what statics is by building something up with things and letting it collapse again. The world of numbers is best understood by children through the little fingers of their hands.

Univ-Professor Dr. med. Joachim Bauer is a neuroscientist, doctor, psychiatrist and non-fiction author. In his generally understandable books, Bauer explains the significance of the findings of modern neuroscience for education, family life, co-operation in the workplace and social coexistence. Prof Bauer worked successfully at Freiburg University Hospital for many years. He now lives, teaches and works in Berlin.


www.psychotherapie-prof-bauer.de



Current situation and challenges of nature and forest kindergartens in Japan

From a sustainability perspective

Speaker: Dr. Hiroe KIDO, Japan

 Presentation in german, translator on site

Did you know that there are forest kindergartens in Japan?

The care and education of children in nature has a long tradition in Japan. In the last decade, various Japanese municipalities have developed local policies to enable children to experience nature.

In this presentation, I would like to introduce the current situation and challenges of forest kindergartens in relation to a number of issues. The discussion will particularly focus on the perspective of sustainability. I will also present research findings on forest kindergartens in Japan. I look forward to exchanging ideas with you all.

Dr. Hiroe KIDO works at TOKAI University in Japan. She has been researching nature and forest kindergartens in Germany and Japan for over 15 years. She spent a semester studying education abroad in Germany. She completed further training as a forest pedagogue at Pädiko in Kiel and an internship at 'Die Wühlmäuse' in Preetz. In Japan, she is involved in the field of elementary education, in the network of nature and forest kindergartens and in the field of sustainability.

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Radically Child-Led: Supporting neurodivergent learners in the United States

Speaker: Emily Bryce, USA

Emily founded and runs Little Fern Forest, a forest school with two locations in Washington State, USA that is radically child-led and uniquely qualified to support neurodivergent (ND) learners. She also runs outdoor groups of elementary school kids and summer camps, trains other OTs and forest school staff, and does parent-child sensory coaching.

Emily Bryce, MS, OTR/L is a licensed and registered Occupational Therapist, certified in Ayres Sensory Integration and Therapeutic Listening. She is the president of American Forest Kindergarten Association and on the board of The CedarSong Way where she trained as a teacher. Diagnosed Autistic and ADHD, she is passionate about supporting ND children and their families within the outdoor environment through education and equitable opportunities. She loves to travel and lives with her husband and toddler on 5 acres of forested land across the Sound from Seattle, WA.

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How trees became the third educator Nature education in Turkey

Speaker: Iskender Yildirim, Türkei

DE Presentation in german, translator on site

When I quit my secure job in Germany ten years ago, I never thought that a question about a sunny day would change my professional life. My first workshop in an Istanbul kindergarten revealed a terrifying reality: children who were not allowed outside all day despite the sun and outdoor facilities. The reason? Parents didn't want them to. An isolated case? No – everyday life. Yet today – a decade later – the same parents are asking: "Is my child going into the forest today?" What happened in Turkey? Why are children now playing in puddles and building huts out of branches? The term 'nature education' has found a permanent place in the language used by daycare centre managers – but what does implementation really look like?

In my presentation, I will get to the bottom of these questions – with many insights from practice. I will also take a look at Germany: Why do so few children with a Turkish migration background actually attend forest and nature kindergartens in Germany? What role does the educational understanding of their parents' and grandparents' country of origin play? What images of learning, nature and 'good education' are unconsciously passed on?

Iskender Yildirim is the founder of the consulting firm Almanokulu, which supports daycare centres in several cities in Turkey in their conceptual development. In addition to providing counselling, he conducts training courses for educators and offers workshops on forest and nature education. Iskender Yıldırım also represents the Federal Association of Nature and Forest Kindergartens in Turkey.

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Green stuff – knowledge that lasts

How to turn children into wild plant detectives – with a nose for the green world

Speaker: Christine Rauch

 Workshop in german, translator on site

In this workshop, I show how children can discover edible wild plants in a playful and safe way – without electricity, with few materials and right on your own doorstep.

I accompany the course and show my tried-and-tested methods that are fun for children and at the same time impart valuable knowledge: We turn children into little wild plant detectives who can track down, identify and taste nettles, goutweed and the like with all their senses. You will learn creative games, songs, child-friendly mnemonics and simple collection ideas with which you can safely integrate wild plants into your everyday educational programme – even if you are not (yet) a plant specialist yourself. At the end, you will not only take away a worksheet, but also lots of ideas for your groups – and the certainty of how much enthusiasm can be found in a dandelion. A green learning adventure for educational professionals with a passion for pure nature!

Christine Rauch also known by her alter ego Survival Siglinde, is one of the leading experts on edible wild plants and the bestselling author of the book "Wilde Pflanzen essen mit Survival Siglinde" (Eating Wild Plants with Survival Siglinde). As an experienced consultant on self-sufficiency with edible wild plants and an enthusiastic infotainer with over 73,000 followers on Instagram, she imparts knowledge about the diverse and nutrient-rich plants that we encounter in nature in a humorous and practical way.

She has introduced over 2000 children to wild plants in her courses in a wide variety of formats, including at the 2021 Federal Garden Show. As a speaker and workshop leader, she is active throughout Germany and has made it her mission to bring the benefits and fascination of the wild plant world closer to a broad audience.

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Fine smoked products from the forest and meadows

Speaker: Friederike Grabsch

DE Workshop in german, translator on site

Smoking has been with us humans since the beginning. Incredible riches were spent on smoked goods. Worldwide trade routes were built to transport them. At almost all times, smoking was an everyday ceremony, as commonplace as brushing your teeth. It is only in the last few hundred years that smoking has fallen into disuse in our culture.

We want to find out what the things that surround us in the woods and meadows actually smell like, what possibilities there are for smoking and we want to try out different ways of preparing and recipes for fine incense. Incense burning can also enrich everyday life for our children in the forest kindergarten and help them to explore and experience nature on another sensory level... and thus get closer to this everyday practice that has accompanied us humans for so long.

Friederike Grabsch felt drawn to the outdoors to learn, relax and experience adventure while studying to become a primary school teacher and later a special needs teacher. It is therefore not surprising that she trained as an adventure educator at the same time and accompanied young adults with disabilities on trips throughout Europe as a part-time job. After graduating, she soon switched from school to the forest: As an educator at the Klein Hundorf forest kindergarten, she found a place where she could combine her educational work with her love of nature. This was followed by further training as a nature and environmental educator (Naturschule InNatura) and as a course leader for forest bathing (Akademie Waldbaden). Her educational work and her everyday life are characterised by her enthusiasm for wild herbs, nature crafts and treasure hunts – as well as her artistic activities in the field of glass recycling and glass cutting.

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Kneipp – not just a basin, but an attitude

What does Sebastian Kneipp have to do with the forest kindergarten?

Speaker: Asha Scherbach

DE Workshop in german, translator on site,
Saturday only

The five pillars of Sebastian Kneipp kindergartens are for the most part a lived concept of nature: nutrition, plants, water, exercise and a balanced way of life are all part of a healthy forest kindergarten life.

In the workshop, we will experience all five pillars in a practical way – refreshing, wet, still, tasting and smelling – and experience the implementation of the Kneipp concept in a forest and nature kindergarten at first hand.

We will also philosophise about the need to give the body stimuli and risks and what this means in a figurative sense for our lives as forest educators in today's transformative times.

Asha Scherbach, carpenter, actress, qualified psychologist, forest educator, kindergarten teacher, Waldorf teacher and much more. Now: independent kindergarten teacher

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17 Goals – Call for Action

We are turning the world upside down!

Speaker: Sylva Jürgensen, Johanna Pareigis

DE Workshop in german, translator on site

This workshop offers courage and material for installations, performance and theatre in public space. Where can we find local links to the 17 SDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals? Indoors and outdoors, we will search, find, associate, link and build an idea of a future worth living for ALL.

In this workshop, we will work with creative methods of cultural education for sustainable development. We will deal with globally challenging topics artistically, creatively, cooperatively and constructively. With our wonder suitcase, your courage and joint ideas, we will make visible what is needed for change. Our world improvement inspectors will have their hands full.

Aims of the workshop: Expanding design, hope and enabling competences through methods of cultural education

Sylva Brit Jürgensen is a special needs teacher, play and theatre educator, systemic coach, and trauma educator. She is a co-founder of NaturSpielpädagogik and the NaturSpielpädagogik network, which supports social transformation by linking nature experiences, ESD, and cultural education methods. Since 2022, Sylva Brit Jürgensen has also been working as a district advisor for cultural education for the state of Schleswig-Holstein. She specializes in combining cultural education and ESD, as well as outdoor cultural education.

Dr.rer.nat. Johanna Pareigis is an educational consultant and author, a graduate biologist, certified gardener, dance and wilderness educator, and has been repeatedly certified by the state of Schleswig-Holstein as a NUN education partner for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and as a cultural mediator. As an educational consultant, she combines art, philosophy, natural sciences, ESD, culture, and nature in her projects, lectures, training courses, workshops, and events. She is a member of the 'Bundesnetzwerk Draußenlernen' (Federal Outdoor Learning Network) and promotes the development and implementation of outdoor schooling (Outdoor Education) in Germany. In 2018, she founded the 'Lernen im Freien' (Learning Outdoors) movement.

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Pretty tangled

Such a nature education spider project

Speaker: Anne Gerhardt-Rodewald, Kim Rennemann

DE Workshop in german, translator on site

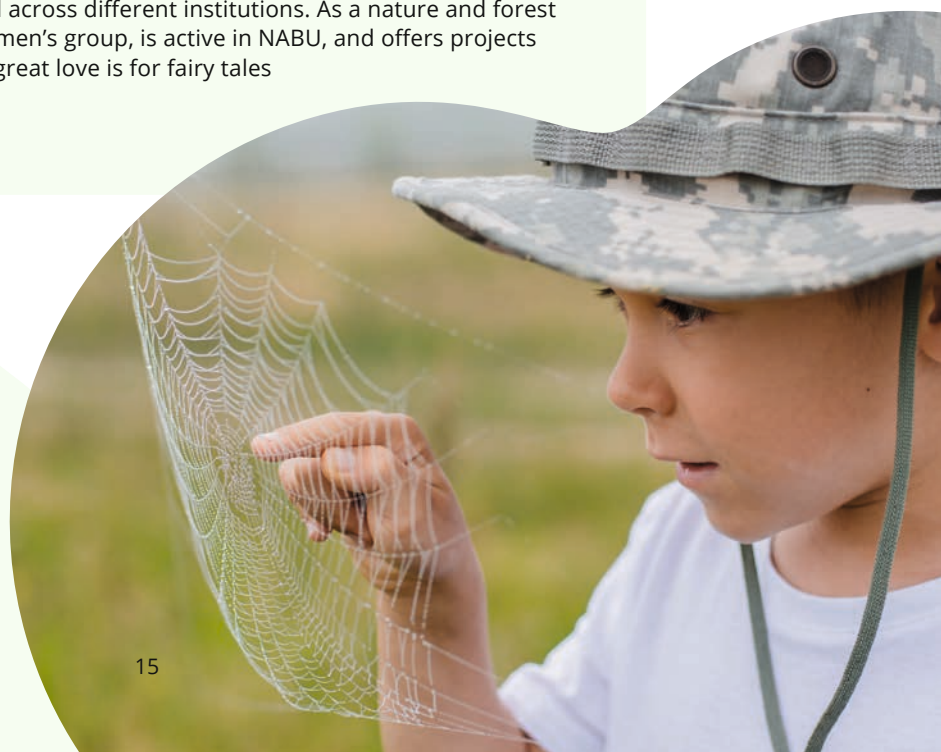
Spiders are everywhere and 'spinning around' is fun: two reasons for a spider project! Spiders, with their four pairs of eyes and eight legs, are often not very popular, but their way of life is extremely fascinating. Observing their elaborate webs is fun and it is exciting to gain an insight into the world of these useful helpers.

In this workshop-style seminar, we will use games, fairy tales, stories and a variety of crafts to learn about and appreciate these useful creatures and the idea of networking in a holistic way. You will have the opportunity to try things out, collect ideas and playfully put our networked knowledge into practice. Let's get spinning!

Anne Gerhardt-Rodewald is a passionate beekeeper, forest educator, nature play educator (FH Kiel), and theatre educator (TuT Hannover). She worked for 27 years at the Waldkindergarten am Ith e.V. For her, the forest kindergarten is the most beautiful workplace in the world. It simply offers everything a person needs to discover the world, explore life, and get to know themselves.

Kim Rennemann has been an early childhood educator at the Waldkindergarten am Ith e.V. for 27 years. She is trained in psychomotor development, is a storyteller, and a Marte Meo practitioner. She sees herself as a "network weaver" connecting young and old, big and small across different institutions. As a nature and forest educator, she founded a women's group, is active in NABU, and offers projects for various age groups. Her great love is for fairy tales and stories.

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Breathing Earth-Time: Engaging in small acts of resistance in chaotic and uncertain times.

Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Henderson

The workshop takes place indoors & outdoors. Please dress warm & weatherproof.

Building on her keynote talk, and using the Celtic Wheel of the Year, Elizabeth will use a creative and gentle eco-therapeutic approach to help you engage with the more-than-human world. She will draw on embodiment, the senses, the imagination, music, neuro-science, art, craft, play and her extensive experience of working with children and adults.

Together we will explore time; geological time, tree time, bird time and dragonfly time to deepen our understanding of the ways in which nature speaks. We will also engage with therapeutic pathways suited to working with young children.

Elizabeth offers you the opportunity to explore your personal relationship with Mother Earth, helping you to be the change for a sustainable future. She will encourage you in your development on the path of becoming an Imagination Doula.

Please bring a small 'found' stone to the workshop (not bought or polished) so we can engage more deeply with one of our more-than-human kin.

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson is an experienced practitioner, manager, lecturer, trainer, researcher, and author with more than 40 years of experience in education. Her work currently focuses on sustainability, indigenous pathways, and the Celtic Wheel of the Year. She is the founder of several innovative projects in Scotland including "Nature Nurture", which she created for 2-3-year-old children from challenging backgrounds. She has also contributed to Scottish Government documents on outdoor learning and play.

Elizabeth is an Imagination Doula and her work is underpinned by love, and the understanding that we help children build their interior worlds in early childhood. When Elizabeth was 3 years-old the flowers whispered their secrets to her, igniting a life-long, loving relationship with Nature.

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Outdoor magic! – Campfire model

A pedagogical approach to environmental education and nature activities

Speaker: Ulla Myllyniemi

In this workshop you will get a practical tool on how to plan and design pedagogical outdoor education to early childhood education. We will experience and create practical examples together and make our own outdoor education recipes designed to our own target groups. Let the flames of outdoor learning blaze!

Ulla Myllyniemi is an environmental and sustainability education trainer at Sykli Environmental College as well as an outdoor education expert, classroom teacher, special needs teacher and nature and wilderness guide. She has degrees in education, special education and environmental education as well as a qualification as a nature and wilderness guide. She is the author and editor of several books on outdoor education and has participated in numerous national and international projects, seminars and workshops on environmental education and outdoor learning. She is also a founding member of the Finnish Association for Outdoor Education and is involved in various networks and organisations. She has been honoured with the Vihti INNO Award for her contributions to outdoor education.

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Forest after-school club Free-Range Kids, very practical

Speaker: Karen Brummer, Pit Golle

DE Workshop in german, translator on site
Saturday only

Forest after-school clubs for schoolchildren are rare. What makes a forest after-school club special? Pit Golle and Karen Brummer provide practical answers to this question, and not just as founders of the Freie Waldhort in Ebersberg. They look at both the content and methods of working with primary school children.

Karen and Pit talk about everyday life outdoors with schoolchildren, about special occasions such as International Mud Day, about spending the night in the wilderness, and they introduce participants to spruce tip syrup and nettle crisps. They show schoolchildren how to suddenly make salad tasty by flavouring it with balsam seeds that they have collected themselves.

From their trip to the international conference of the Children and Nature Network, Karen and Pit are bringing back an old Native American game, which they made together with the other participants at the conference. They invite the participants to take part in a philosophical nature discussion, which they have tried out many times with school and pre-school children. Finally, they encourage the implementation of complaint management for children. Their work, which began more than 10 years ago, has since found its way into pedagogical research.

Pit Golle is a founding member of the non-profit association, served for many years as its treasurer, and works pedagogically in the forest after-school club. As a trained economist and social scientist specializing in economic psychology and macroeconomics, he entered entirely new professional territory when he transitioned into partial retirement. He supported Karen Brummer during the founding phase.

Karen Brummer looks back on 30 years of working with school children as an educator and has been leading the Freier Waldhort Ebersberg since 2012. After the founding of the organization, she introduced Pit to the practical work with school children and qualified him as an additional support staff member.

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Experience nature, develop resilience A motopedagogical workshop

Speaker: Annette Ebsen, Matthias Pose

DE Workshop in German, translator on site

The workshop takes place indoors & outdoors. Please dress warm & weatherproof.

Nature as a space for experience and movement not only offers children space to develop, but also important impulses for the development of psychological resistance – resilience. In this motopedagogical workshop, we discover how targeted movement units in and with nature can strengthen protective factors and holistically promote educational processes.

The focus is on experience: Through numerous practical exercises, the 'play space of nature' can be experienced as a powerful space for learning and development. Participants receive a repertoire of immediately realisable ideas, games and methods for their own educational practice. The focus is on the connection between experiencing nature, movement and the development of key resilience factors such as self-efficacy, problem-solving skills, relationship building and emotional regulation.

Anette Ebsen, a primary and secondary school teacher as well as a state-certified motopedagogue, and **Matthias Pose**, a state-certified early childhood educator and motopedagogue, have been working together as a motopedagogical team in the Schleswig-Flensburg district for over 17 years.

Matthias Pose founded JuKidZ am Beektal in 2008, a nature-oriented center for children's and youth work in the Amt Eggebek region, where digital media are deliberately avoided. The focus here is on direct experiences in nature, relationship-building, and shared movement.

Together, they have developed Kon-takt-Training.de – a self-confidence and resilience training programme for children and young people that sees movement as a central means of personal development. Since 2014, Anette Ebsen and Matthias Pose have jointly managed the family centre in Eggebek am Beektal, which is considered the heart of regional education and prevention work.

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Nature mentoring and coyote teaching

Teaching and learning in nature

Speaker: Ralph Müller

DE Both Workshops in german, translator on site
Saturday only

The term Coyote Teaching is based on the teaching methods of indigenous peoples in North America in nature. Coyote Teaching essentially consists of inspiration, stories that take you on a journey, the courage to not know, your own experience and the joy of inquisitive research and experimentation. Theoretical and direct knowledge transfer, as well as ready-made solutions, are not in the foreground here. Nature mentoring describes a benevolent and loving approach to accompanying people on their nature and life journey. We embark on an outer and inner nature journey and get to know some tools and signposts such as the medicine wheel.

Reading traces

The beautiful and powerful Feather

Sunday only

There are all kinds of bird tracks in the forest, but none fascinate us as much as feathers. They are colourful, soft, light and stable and also touch our hearts. You will learn ancient natural knowledge about feathers. We will experiment and research, look at the three main types of feathers and create an exciting and magical feather puzzle.

Ralph Müller, raised in Düsseldorf, now lives in his chosen home of Sonthofen in beautiful Allgäu. For nearly 30 years, he has led his nature and wilderness school, sharing his nature knowledge with humor in seminars and trainings. He also offers multi-week canoe wilderness tours in the Masurian Lakes and Canada. He is the author of the books "Die geheime Sprache der Vögel" (The Secret Language of Birds) and "Raus in die Wildnis" (Out into the Wilderness).

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When the forest becomes a classroom

Living and learning in the forest

class 123 at Conrad Primary School

Speaker: Birgit Eiselt, Maxi Rothbart

 Workshop in german, translator on site

Much has been reported in recent years about the importance of experiencing nature for early childhood development, particularly in the areas of health, motor skills, creativity and self-image. For example, the connection between movement and language development already plays an important role in primary school. However, these opportunities for experience often end when children enter primary school. Everyday life is then characterised by tight time and space constraints, expectations of conformity, risk avoidance, lack of movement, limited self-determination and a lack of development opportunities.

With the aim of changing this, Waldklasse 123 was founded in 2016 at the state-run Conrad School in Berlin-Wannsee. The inter-year forest class (JüL 123) works inclusively in a voluntary all-day programme (7:30-16:00), and the children spend most of the school day in the forest or in other natural learning spaces. Our presentation presents the daily and weekly structure and uses examples to illustrate the practical coverage of the various educational areas.

Birgit Eiselt is a primary school teacher who holds a Montessori diploma and has led playgroups in kindergartens. Since 2009, she has worked as a class teacher at Conrad School in Berlin-Wannsee, where she maintains cooperation with local daycares, including two forest kindergartens. In 2016, she co-founded the inclusive forest class (grades 1–3).

Maxi Rothbart earned her biology diploma in 2006 and worked in research. In 2017, she began training as a nature educator (Naturschule Deutschland) and, simultaneously, as an early childhood educator (Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus Berlin), focusing on (syn-) aesthetic education, forest pedagogy, and diversity. Since 2018, she has supported the Forest Class 123 as an intern and has been a permanent team member since 2020. She has also since earned her Montessori diploma.

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Biodiversity

From a wild spot to a tiny forest

Speaker: Axel Heineck

DE Workshop in german, translator on site

Interactive workshop for the development and enrichment of kindergartens with more biodiversity:

Part 1: We first analyse the kindergartens' current situation to see how biodiversity is already part of the children's daily lives.

Part 2: We also discuss the possibilities and methods of improvement and consolidation.

Part 3: We discuss the creation and planning of a 'wild corner' and especially a Tiny Forest.

Axel Heineck holds an M.A. in Ethnology, Geography, and History. He brings over 25 years of experience in the data warehouse sector and seven years in project work and consulting.

He has in-depth knowledge of sustainability management and is a team-oriented consultant with strong customer focus and business-fluent English gained through international assignments. In his free time, he is interested in artificial intelligence, photography, botany, and ecology.

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United in Nature Songs for forest kindergartens

Speaker: Michi Fink, Sebastian Gimm

DE Open offer, no registration necessary

During the international congress, Michi & Sheba (Sebastian Gimm) will set up a recording studio at the event venue. Music by and for forest kindergartens will be created there for the entire duration of the congress.

Michi & Sheba have already recorded six nature-loving songs together at the nature and forest kindergarten in the Slavendorf Passentin in summer 2024 and are looking forward to recording songs from all over the world with the participants of the congress.

So come along and get involved! Our workshop has no workshop times, but runs continuously throughout the event. Do you have song ideas, lyrics or play an instrument? Let's be creative together!

Sheba is a musician and music producer from Flensburg. He loves music and even turns the wind blowing through the trees into sounds that touch people's hearts.

Michi Fink is an educator at a forest kindergarten and a writer from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. He loves music and passionately combines it with his love of nature.

michifink@wild-wurzeln.de, s.gimm@web.de





.. Suddenly the nature or forest kindergarten is holding its breath

Speaker: Markus Först

DE Workshop in german, translator on site
The number of participants is limited.

The workshop is aimed at anyone who would like to learn more about risk theory considerations when designing insurance solutions for forest kindergartens. Together we will develop a customised portfolio that offers insurance cover tailored specifically to your institution.

This goes far beyond what is obviously necessary. Topics that include the organisation's scope for design, also and in particular through the possible installation of a pension scheme with a 'company health insurance', a 'company pension scheme' and the provision of individual insurance solutions for educational staff.

Markus Först has been an active volunteer board member of a forest kindergarten for twelve years, working to further develop and professionalise the organisation, especially through close cooperation with the German Federal Association of Nature and Forest Kindergartens (Bundesverband der Natur- und Waldkindergärten in Deutschland e.V.). He is married, has two children, and, after completing his studies, now runs an insurance brokerage firm in Bad Homburg.

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Recognize and solve (legal) problems in daycare centers

Speaker: Bartosz Dzionsko

DE Workshop in german, translator on site
Saturday only

Every daycare centre involves legal risks. This workshop shows where these risks lie, how to avoid or at least reduce them, and how to deal with problems correctly. Participants are encouraged to share their own past or current challenges. General meetings in particular often harbour mistakes that can have major consequences. Unintended liability claims should also be avoided, as those responsible may be personally liable with their private assets.

Lawyer and certified tax law specialist Bartosz Dzionsko (Dreyenberg Law Firm) raises awareness of typical risks in daycares, presents everyday areas of risk, and explains what to watch out for in certain areas to better assess legal challenges and act with more confidence. Participants can exchange experiences with him throughout.

Topics include how to respond to allegations of child endangerment, how to reduce criminal liability risks, and how to minimise liability risks, especially for board members. The possible far-reaching consequences of problems at general meetings will be addressed, as well as important deadlines in association, tax, and administrative law. The workshop also explains what a company daycare centre is and how a forest kindergarten can unintentionally become one. Other everyday legal challenges in daycare operations will also be discussed.

Bartosz Dzionsko is a founding partner of DREYENBERG, a nationally active, multiple award-winning law firm. He specialises in non-profit law, particularly in the establishment and tax advice of non-profit limited companies (gGmbHs), associations, and foundations. As a certified tax law specialist, he provides comprehensive advice to non-profit organisations on tax and legal matters, including customs and white-collar criminal law. He also supports organisations with compliance issues, internal investigations, and the enforcement of liability claims. In addition, he assists with amendments to articles of association, the preparation of general meetings, and resolving membership disputes.

b.dzionsko@dreyenberg.com



The healing power of song, dance and community

Sing together, dance, gather strength

Speaker: Hagara Feinbier

 Workshop in german, translator on site

We sing simple songs of the heart from different cultures. Singing has a direct effect on body and soul – after all, the human being is the instrument. We become livelier, more energetic, more active, more courageous or more relaxed, calmer, looser. The energetic singing and dancing takes us out of our heads and we fall into our hearts and into the moment.

We sing songs for tolerance and openness to the world, for our love for Mother Earth, for deep contact and trust between people, for peace and gratitude for life. Most of the songs are wonderfully suitable for children. I look forward to seeing you - even and especially if you haven't sung for a long time!

Evening: Simple songs of the heart and songs for Mother Earth from different cultures

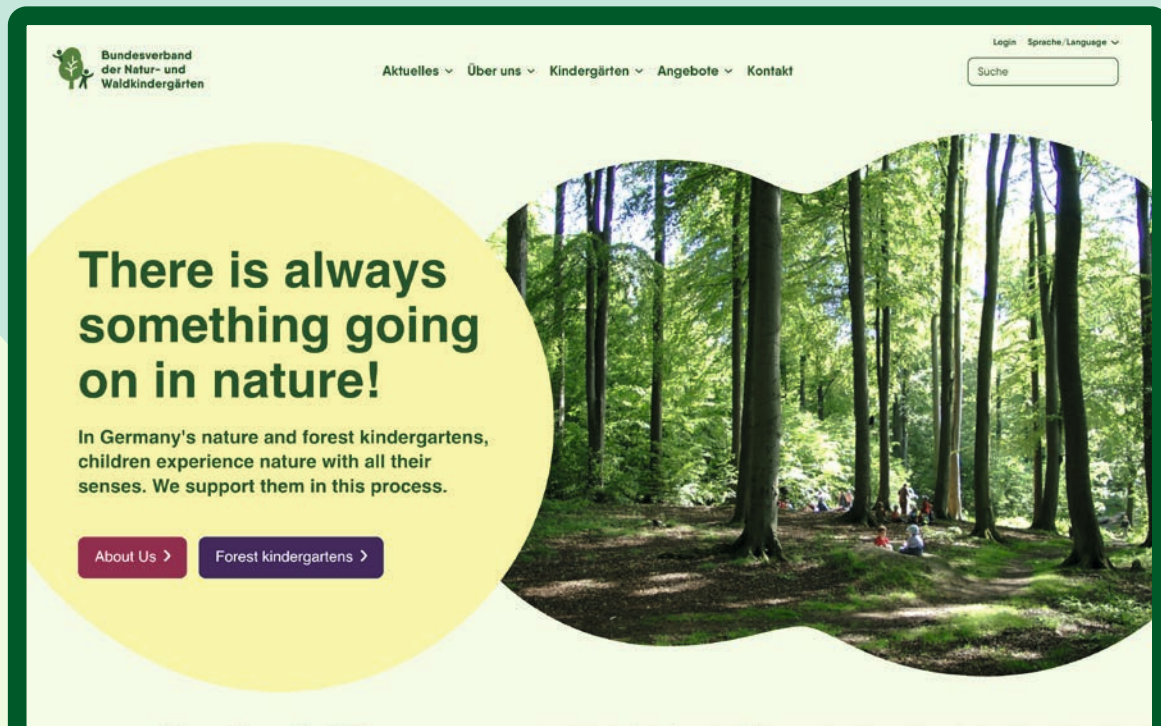
Discover new worlds through singing – recharge your batteries with lightness and joy – feel gratitude for life

Hagara Feinbier is a trained music educator and choir director, leader of the Dances of Universal Peace, and a passionate workshop facilitator and song collector. Since its founding year in 1991, she has lived in the ZEGG community in Bad Belzig. She is the editor of four COME TOGETHER SONGS songbooks – a collection of heart-opening, community-building songs from around the world – as well as six CDs and a dance DVD. For over 30 years, Hagara has been leading singing seminars in Germany and abroad, as well as training groups for song circle leaders. Her vibrant and open-hearted presence has helped many enthusiastic participants rediscover and reconnect with their voice through singing.

hagara@come-together-songs.de



News from the Forest Wide Web



- ✓ Latest news about nature and forest kindergartens from all over Germany
- ✓ Free listing of your kindergarten on our website
- ✓ Job offers – **free postings for members of the BvNW**
- ✓ Training opportunities in the fields of nature, environment, and wilderness
- ✓ FAQs for nature and forest educators as well as parents
- ✓ Help and tips for founding a nature or forest kindergarten
- ✓ Extensive collection of materials for educators and parents covering education, health, literature, research, and more

WWW.BVNW.DE

BvNW Contacts

The BvNW sees it as its task to network the forces of nature and forest kindergartens and start-up initiatives at state and national level. Communication and cooperation between members of local, regional and international alliances as well as state working groups and state associations are very important to us.

We attach particular importance to the exchange of experience, skills and expertise among nature and forest kindergarten experts. The BvNW has contacts in various federal states for state-specific questions. You can find them on the map opposite.



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