

Info-sheet: Outdoor Group "Fox"

Group WoKi

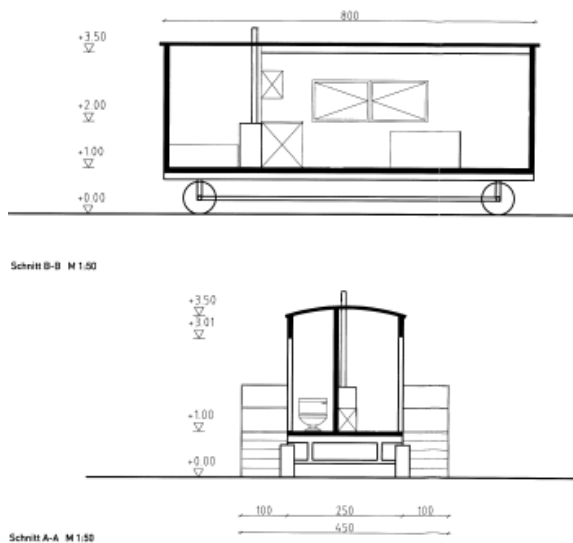
The Forest group 'Fox' opened in Spring 2017. The group consists of 20 Kindergarten Children aged between 3 years and school age.

Location

The location of the Forest Group is situated on a clearing in a part of the forest in the municipality of Haundorf. It can be accessed via a forest path from the Haundorfer or Schwarzholzstraße.



The Facilities



The forest

The Group is based out of well-equipped site cabin. The cabin measures 20msq and also benefits from a large covered terrace area. The cabin will also serve as storage for play materials, be a place of shelter in cold weather, act as a location for small groups of children and their play activities and a place where the children can have a sleep. It features a composting toilet, an oven/stove, seating and a storage room.

Woki

The Forest Group still has a room and a wardrobe area in Woki. This is the place the children come in the morning and return to in the afternoon.

The biggest room of all is the forest, together with their teachers/pedagogical workers (Forest Crew) the children will have the chance to explore and conquer!

Opening Times

The facility is open from 7:30-18:30. The children will be based or moving between the forest between 9:15 – 15:30; before and after they are based at Woki.

The Daily Routine

7.30 – 8.00	Care begins for the early starters
8.00 – 9.00	Arrival in the group room, Breakfast and Kick-Start in the Gym.
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome Circle
9.15 – 9.45	Journey to the Site Cabin
9.45 – 12.00	Play and action in the Forest
12.00 – 12.30	Lunchtime
12.30 – 14.30	Play, action and time for some rest.
14.30 – 15.00	Afternoon Snack.
15.00 – 15.30	Return journey and arrival back in the Group room.
From 15.30	Play at the world of kids

Our Forest Crew

The children are supervised by a Kindergarten teacher with advanced training in forest care, a further Kindergarten teacher and supported by an English speaking assistant.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where do the children go when the weather is bad?**

Our philosophy is: There is no bad weather, only bad clothes! Bad weather stops adults, however, it allows children a whole new type of play and experience. The cabin serves as a safe place to retreat and the forest itself serves as a roof to help shelter the rain. If we feel the weather is too bad to remain or go to the forest then we will return/remain at the world of kids for the safety of the children.



- **Won't the children be cold in the winter?**

These days there is very good thermal clothing, that even in the most wintery of conditions can help keep children warm. We also recommend the 'onion look' (many layers). The cabin can also be heated by the oven/stove to give some warmth if required. However with plenty of activity a child should remain warm.

- **How and what will the children eat?**

Daily the Forest Group receives fresh food from the world of kids. Drinking water is transferred separately. We require each child to take a drinking bottle that can then be refilled whilst in the forest.



- **How and when can the children rest?**

In addition to the beds in the cabin the children can also make the most of the hammocks.



- **Where will the children go to the toilet?**

A composting toilet is accessible from inside and outside the cabin. The facilities allow privacy and are like any other normal toilet facilities.

- **Hand and body hygiene?**

In the forest this still applies. Before every meal the children will wash their hands and face with fresh drinking water and soap.

- **What about safety?**

The location of the children is reviewed by the safety officer on a regular basis. The Forest Group Crew are trained in highlighting and identifying dangers and risks at an early stage.

Should an accident happen then the team will have a mobile phone to contact local emergency services as well as the contact details for local practitioners and of course the parents. The crew are also trained as first aiders and our current English speaking colleague has further qualifications in medical education (Nurse).

- **Infections**

Ticks can cause the following illnesses:

- Tick-borne Encephalitis
- Lyme-Disease

Every child after every day should check for ticks. The Forest Crew will have tools available to use e.g. tick-tweezers. At the end of each day it is recommended that parents check their child for ticks as well. Parents are required to sign a form consenting to have any ticks found by the employees removed from their children. It is recommended that the right clothes are worn by the children and tick repellent is also used.

The following diseases can be transferred by the fox tapeworm:

- Echinokokkus alveolaris
- Echinokokkus multilocularis

These can be contracted from herbs, fruits, windfalls or the ingestion or inhalation of tapeworm eggs. The children are educated on all potential hazards by the Forest Crew. The main rule is that no fruit, leaves, mushrooms or herbs should be placed in the mouth.

- **Toys**

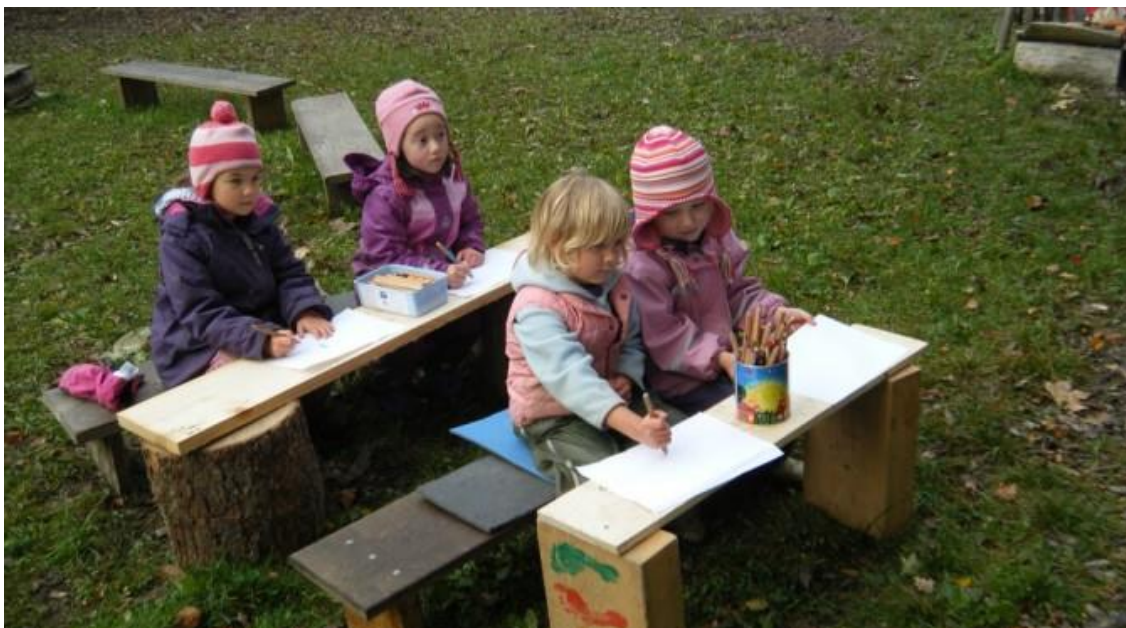
Individual toys are not be allowed to be taken into the forest.



- **Are the children still well prepared for school?**

Nature creates the best conditions for future learning in school: who has spatial awareness whilst gaining an important basis for mathematical thinking. Who has a good sense of balance and can sit quietly and write on a line. Who can present game ideas and negotiate with others and who shows high level of linguistic competence. These examples make it clear that the experience nature helps prepare the children very well for school. The educators inside also take care to support each child individually in acquiring the necessary skills to attend school. Special activities such as concert or gallery viewing complete the last year of kindergarten.

Do you have any questions? If yes, please do not hesitate to ask us.



What are the benefits for the Forest Group?

- It's a smaller group
- Children with the natural urge to move freely are given the space to do so.
- Both physical and mental health are strengthened in the fresh air – children will be exposed to less infections that are normally transmitted through warm air environments.
- Their natural physical fitness will be improved every day.
- The forest serves as a space for creativity and living out fantasy without prefabricated materials.
- Relationships can be made and grown and the senses stimulated e.g. through watching the changes of the seasons, growth and natural life cycles.
- In the forest the only noise you hear is natural silence, so there is no over stimulation from external noises.
- Staying in the outdoors promotes a mental and emotional balance for children.

