



Language support is an important quality feature in preschool facilities, because every child can benefit individually from a stimulating language environment. When we engage in conversation with the child, encourage them to tell stories, listen, fantasise, ask questions and give reasons, we also make an important contribution to their language development.

How can you as parents support your child in everyday life?

Language support in everyday life essentially consists of being in dialogue with your child. Through interest and questions, the vocabulary is expanded playfully. Pre-school children are like "word hoovers". In the first years of life, they have the ability to memorise new words directly during the first hearing. However, they still do not know what the word means exactly and how to use it correctly. They are therefore dependent on experiencing new word concepts again and again in different situations. Only with time will they be able to use them specifically themselves.

In everyday life, you can enter into a conversation with your child in the context of usual activities and recurring situations. It is precisely these everyday situations that hold the opportunities for the important repetitions. In this way, the child hears the same word terms over and over again. This does not require any planning or preparation, just an awareness of the importance of these situations and the mindfulness to recognise and address them.

Playing together and telling stories

Play also stimulates language learning. In the process, the child re-enacts the experiences from the surrounding living world and immerses in its own fantasy world. The development of language and the development of play are closely linked. The child has this gift of playing from imagination, but new and interesting material can also arouse the child's curiosity. If you play along as an adult, you can put what has happened into words and verbalise it. In this way, you become a language role model by getting involved in the game and entering into this important dialogue.

The picture book can also be used specifically for language development. It is particularly beneficial not only to read aloud or tell stories, but also to involve your child. The child should also contribute own ideas to the story and develop own thoughts further. You in turn repeat your child's incorrect utterances correctly and also expand incomplete sentences. **Important:** However, do not explicitly point out mistakes, just show your child that you have understood. Your child is corrected indirectly and hears the most important thing, which is the correct way of saying it.

Which language is the important one?

Sometimes parents want to help their child by speaking German themselves instead of their native language. However, we would like to encourage you that your child should learn his or her first language in a well-founded way. Research on second language acquisition clearly shows that parents help their child best when they continue to speak their own language with them. The better the child speaks the first language, the easier it will be to learn another language.

Pre-school care facilities are an ideal place where children learn German through play even before kindergarten and where the focus is on equal opportunities. This is supported by the financial contributions from the Cantonal Early Language Support.

The childcare staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have during this process, because we can achieve more for your child together on the basis of a trusting relationship!