



# The Constitution of World of Kids, Herzogenaurach

## *Preamble*

- (1) During the time from 21.04.16 to 23.04.16, our educational team at our daycare center "World of Kids" met as a constitutional assembly. The educational staff discussed the pedagogical rights of the children which will be valid in the future.
- (2) The participation of children regarding every decision which affects them will be therefore recognized as a fundamental right. The pedagogical work should be orientated based on this right.
- (3) At the same time, the participation of the children is a necessary condition for the successful education processes and the development of democratic thinking and acting.

## *Section 1: Constitutional Bodies*

### **§ 1 Constitutional Bodies**

The Group meetings and the daycare centre parliament are the constitutional bodies

### **§ 2 Group Conferences**

- (1) The Group Meetings will take place at least once a week, every Thursday, in the Fox, Fish, Bird, Butterfly, Flower, Tree and Kindergarten Groups. If required, it is possible that the meetings will take place more often.
- (2) The Group Meetings consist of the children and the teachers of the respective groups. The participation for children is voluntary.
- (3) According to paragraph two the parliament makes decisions based on the set responsibilities with regards to all topics which affect the group.
- (4) A consensus is required for decision making. If a decision cannot be made, the majority of all present conference members will decide.
- (5) The team meetings will be moderated from one teacher and if possible one child with a visual protocol. All topics and decisions will be written in the minutes simultaneously through symbols during the dialogue and will additionally be written down. Protocols will be approved by the group members, will be "published" centrally and will be archived in a folder which is accessible for children, parents and teachers.
- (6) The children from the Kindergarten will choose four delegates who will represent the group interests within the parliament. In addition, the children from the fox group will choose two delegates who will represent the group interests within the parliament. The nursery groups will be represented by two teachers and interested children. The teachers act as their right hand and speak, if necessary, for the children. The elections will be free elections among all children who agree to participate. The legislative period will be half a kindergarten year. A re-election is possible, if a delegate abdicates or is recalled by the members. In this case, a new delegate will be chosen during the group session.

### **§ 3 Parliament of Daycare Center**

- (1) The parliament will be in session in the parents room at least every second Wednesday at 9.15 a.m. They can decide to meet more often if required.
- (2) The parliament consists of the delegates from the group meetings, the manager or deputy manager, two pedagogical employees from the Kindergarten Groups and two pedagogical employees from the nursery. The teachers from the nursery represent the nursery children's interests. They can be accompanied, as appropriate, by the nursery children.

- (3) According to paragraph two, the parliament makes decisions based on the set responsibilities with regards to all topics which affect the institution.
- (4) A consensus is required for decision making. If a decision cannot be made, the majority of all present conference members will decide.
- (5) The team meetings will be moderated from one teacher and if possible from one child with a visual protocol. All topics and decisions will be written in the minutes simultaneously through symbols during the dialogue and will additionally be written down. Protocols will be approved from the group members, will be "published" centrally and will be archived in a folder which is accessible for children, parents and teachers.

## ***Section 2: Areas of Responsibility***

### **§ 4 Daily Routines and Offered Activities**

- (1) The children have the right to participate in the decision making process regarding themes and the implementation of activity offers and projects
- (2) The children have the right to decide what they want to do, when, how, where and with whom during their day in the daycare center. This also involves the right to decide which projects and offers they want to participate in.
- (3) The educational staff reserve the right to limit the children's right of free choice regarding their whereabouts during the drop-off time, during lunch (12 – 1 p.m.) as well as in instances of staff shortage.
- (4) The educational staff reserve the right to decide if the children prepare meals in the little kitchen which do not correspond to the nutritional concept of our daycare center.
- (5) The children have the right to bring their own CDs to the daycare center. However, the educational staff reserve the right to decide that CD's won't be played if the content could influence the children negatively.
- (6) The children do not have the right to participate in the decision making process regarding the structure of the day.

## § 5 Rules

- (1) The educational staff reserve the right to decide and ensure
  - a. that nobody gets hurt or insulted.
  - b. that the children respect "no" from other children.
  - c. that the institution and equipment is not wilfully damaged.
  - d. that no toys will be taken to the forest.
  - e. that the time to play with digital toys is limited to half an hour per day.
  - f. that nobody will be sneezed or coughed on from another child on purpose.
  - g. that the children do not leave the premises without approval from a member of educational staff.
- (2) The educational staff commits to have a discussion with the children regarding how a play gun has to be used.

## § 6 Security Issues

- (1) The children cannot provide input if the educational employee believes that it is a physical or mental risk to the child.

## § 7 Excursions

- (1) The children have the right to participate in deciding which excursions take place.
- (2) The children have the right to participate in deciding how excursions will be made.
- (3) The children have the right to decide if they want to join an excursion.

## § 8 Events and Celebrations

The children do not have the right to get involved in the planning of events and parties.

## § 9 Interior Design

- (1) The educational staff reserve the right to decide the fundamental function of the rooms.
- (2) The children have the right to participate in the decision making process regarding individual designs of the rooms.

## § 10 Finance

The children do not have the right to get involved in financial questions.

## § 11 Personnel Matters (will be implemented as soon as committees are chosen)

- (1) The children do not have the right to get involved in personnel matters.

## § 12 Opportunities for Complaints

- (1) The educational staff commits to provide the children the opportunity to say their opinion publicly about employees and:
  - a) either to negotiate with the children publicly about these complaints and to decide consequences together or
  - b) to negotiate during the pedagogical team meeting, decide consequences and inform the children about the results.

- (2) The educational staff commits to act observantly in power struggles between (nursery) children and colleagues and if necessary to intervene. The educational staff must also accept being observed and allow fellow educational staff to intervene when necessary.

### § 13 Meals

- (1) The children have the right to decide themselves, whether, what and how much they eat and drink as long as there are no health-based limitations and as long as there is enough for everyone. This right also includes the right to decide whether they would like to try certain ingredients of the respective meal.
- (2) We are aware of religious and other values that prohibit the consumption of certain dishes. However, we respect every child's right to decide on his/her own what he/she would like to eat as a major right of self-determination. In this regard, we will remind the children of their parents' wishes.
- (3) Our educational staff reserve the right to limit the amount of food that a child initially puts on his/her plate given the case that the child has repeatedly put more on his/her plate than he/she actually ate.
- (4) Our educational staff reserve the right to determine the times for lunch and dinner during which the meals are to be taken. For the nursery, this also applies for breakfast. Within a determined time period, the children may decide on their own when they would like to take their snack.
- (5) Our educational staff reserve the right to define the dining manners.
- (6) The children have the right to decide whom they want to sit next to.
- (7) Our educational staff reserve the right to temporarily detract the right of paragraph 6 if they break the rules of dining manners.
- (8) Our educational staff reserve the right to enforce that the children participate at least in the beginning of the meals in order to decide if they want to eat something from the offered meal.
- (9) The educational staff at World of Kids will offer the children something to eat if they show clear signals that they are hungry and waiting until the next meal is unreasonable.

### § 14 Sleeping

- (1) The children have the right to decide if, when and how long they want to sleep in the daycare center. The educational staff reserve the right to put a child down to sleep if the child judges his/her need to sleep incorrectly several times.
- (2) The educational staff commit not to wake up a child. No child will be woken up regularly.
- (3) The children have the right to decide which items they need to sleep. Except for the given regulations of the institution. The educational staff reserve the right to enforce that items which disturb other children falling asleep, are not allowed to be taken in the sleeping room.
- (4) The children have the right to decide which clothes they want to wear to sleep. However, the educational staff reserve the right to decide regarding the clothes of the child if the child has sweat while sleeping on several occasions.
- (5) The educational staff reserve the right to decide where the children sleep.
- (6) The educational staff reserve the right to decide that children from the nursery who don't want to sleep, need to stay at the kindergarten during the nursery sleeping time.

### § 15 Hygiene

- (1) The children have the right to decide if, from who, when and how they will be changed. However, the educational staff reserve the right to decide regarding the whereabouts of the child if the odour of the diaper, in their opinion, is not reasonable for other persons or if there is a risk of an overflowing diaper.
- (2) The children have the right to decide when they want to use the toilet instead of a diaper. However, the educational staff reserve the right to decide and to enforce that a child has to wear a diaper if the child has been having accidents continuously.

- (3) The children have the right to decide when they want to go to toilet. However, the educational staff reserve the right to remind the children that it would be useful to go to the toilet before starting an excursion.
- (4) The educational staff reserve the right to decide when the children have to wash their hands.
- (5) The children have the right to brush their teeth. However, the educational staff reserve the right to detract the right if the toothbrush is misused or if the children brush their teeth too long.
- (6) The children have the right to blow their nose on their own. However, the educational staff reserve the right to decide, in individual cases, when it is necessary for the child to blow his/her nose.

## § 16 Clothes

- (1) The children have the right to decide on their own what they want to wear inside.
- (2) The children have the right to decide which outerwear they want to wear during dry weather in the garden, during forest days, excursions etc.
- (3) The children have the right to decide what they want to wear during wet weather, provided there are enough spare clothes.
- (4) The children have the right to decide if they want to be barefoot in the interiors and during dry weather outside.
- (5) However, the educational staff reserve the right to decide:
  - a. that it isn't allowed to wear street shoes in the group rooms.
  - b. that the children have to wear shoes in the mensa during meal times and if they use vehicles in the little gym and in the garden due to safety reasons.
  - c. that children do not wear any costumes or masks which could frighten other children.
  - d. that children have to change their wet clothes or decide the whereabouts of children with wet clothes
  - e. when and where children are allowed to stay if they are naked or are in underwear only
  - f. when children have to put on sunscreen or, to wear a shirt or a hat, due to protection from the sun
  - g. to limit the mentioned rights in paragraph (1) to paragraph (4) for the children who are not able to walk upright or are not able to express their clear indication of wishes.
  - h. to ask the children to take off or put on clothes in case of overheating or becoming too cold. Therefore, they will check the body temperature of the children by feeling and asking older children.
  - i. The pedagogical employees commit to let the children decide how they want to be dressed during meals and do not ensure that the children wear, for example, only a onesie during meals.

## § 17 Constitutional Amendments

The constitution can only be changed by the team of educational staff.

This requires:

1. a consensus decision to extend the rights of the children.
2. a resolution with a majority of at least two-thirds to limit the rights of the children or to change the bodies of constitution and rules of procedure.

### Section 3: Scope and Implementation

#### § 18 Scope

The present constitution is valid for the daycare center "World of Kids", Herzogenaurach. The educational staff commit with their signature to tailor their work towards the educational rights of the children.

#### § 19 Implementation

To be determined

#### Signature of Educational Staff

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>