

“Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation - Facts and Figures

(Last updated: 30 June 2022)

Since 2006, the non-profit “Haus der kleinen Forscher” (Little Scientists’ House) Foundation has been committed to improving education for children between the ages of three and ten in the domains of science, technology, computer science, and mathematics. With a nationwide continuing professional development programme, the Foundation supports primary school teachers and early childhood educators in nurturing children’s spirit of discovery and in facilitating their exploration and inquiry activities in a qualified way. The education initiative thus makes an important contribution to improving educational opportunities, fostering the next generation of professionals in the STEM fields, and professionalising pedagogical staff.

Overview



Embedded in a network structure comprising **196** local network partners, the education initiative’s continuing professional development programme is already available to **84 percent** of all early childhood education and care centres, **85 percent** of all after-school centres, and **73 percent** of all primary schools in Germany.



About **85,000** early childhood educators and primary teachers from more than **34,800** early childhood education and care centres, after-school centres, and primary schools have participated in the initiative’s continuing professional development programme. About **2.9 million** children attend the participating institutions.



More than **5,900** early childhood education and care centres, after-school centres, and primary schools have been certified as a “Haus der kleinen Forscher”.

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Map: Regions in Germany with "Haus der kleinen Forscher" networks

Figures in detail (differentiated according to early childhood education and care centres,¹ after-school centres, and primary schools)



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- **Early childhood education and care centres:** About **72,000** educators from **27,900** early childhood education and care centres have already participated in the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” initiative's continuing professional development programme (this corresponds to 53 percent of all early childhood education and care centres in Germany). About **1.8 million** children attend the participating early childhood education and care centres.
- **After-school centres and primary schools:** About **13,000** educators and teachers from around **1,700** after-school centres and around **5,300** (all-day) primary schools have already participated in the initiative's continuing professional development programme (this corresponds to 43 percent of all after-school centres and 34 percent of all primary schools). About **1.1 Million** children attend the participating after-school centres and primary schools.



More than **5,900** early childhood education and care centres, after-school centres, and primary schools have been certified as a “Haus der kleinen Forscher”.

- **Early childhood education and care centres:** Around **5,400** early childhood education and care centres throughout Germany have been certified as a “Haus der kleinen Forscher”.
- **After-school centres and primary schools:** Since autumn 2013, after-school centres and primary schools can also apply for certification. More than **200** after-school centres and more than **300** primary schools have already been certified as a “Haus der kleinen Forscher”.

¹ The term “early childhood education and care centre” covers *Kindergärten*, *Kindertagesstätten*, *Kinderläden*, and other preschool institutions in Germany that cater for children between the ages of three and six.



Activities of the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation

The main activities of the Berlin-based “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation are:

- Developing and providing continuing professional development concepts and pedagogical resources for early childhood educators, primary teachers, children and all interested parties
- Training multipliers (“trainers”) who deliver continuing professional development to early childhood educators and primary teachers locally
- Building and developing sustainable local networks with the help of local stakeholders; advising, and providing services to, the network partners
- Supporting the quality development of educational institutions by certifying them as a “Haus der kleinen Forscher”

Partners

The partners of the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation are the Siemens Stiftung, the Dietmar Hopp Stiftung, the Dieter Schwarz Stiftung and the Friede Springer Stiftung. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research has supported the initiative since 2008.

As a nationwide education initiative, the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation depends on the commitment of diverse local partners – the local networks. The Foundation’s network partners include municipalities and early childhood education and care providers, trade associations, science centres, museums, companies, foundations, associations, etc.

Individual federal states, trade associations, and other organisations also support the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation within the framework of numerous collaborations.

At the same time, the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation networks with interested stakeholders abroad to learn from one another and to share experiences.

Qualification Programme for Teachers and Educators

The “Haus der kleinen Forscher” is Germany’s largest qualification programme in the field of early childhood education. With a continuing professional development programme and practical pedagogical resources, the education initiative supports early childhood educators and primary teachers in competently designing and implementing educational processes with children in the domains of science, technology, computer science, and mathematics.

The “Haus der kleinen Forscher” Foundation supports educational institutions in developing themselves further by establishing a science, technology, computer science, and/or mathematics focus and offering children favourable development and learning environments.



With its activities, the Foundation also supports the implementation of existing education plans in the domains of science, technology, computer science, and mathematics.

Pedagogic Approach

The Foundation's pedagogic approach focuses on the children's own resources and emphasises collaborative, dialogic, inquiry-based learning.² When engaging in inquiry activities, children can develop problem-solving skills, find their own answers, and experience a sense of self-efficacy ("Yes, I can!"). The importance of these experiences and abilities for personality development and the subsequent professional biography extends far beyond childhood.

Accompanying Research and Monitoring

All activities of the education initiative are scientifically accompanied and evaluated on an ongoing basis. The "Haus der kleinen Forscher" Foundation engages in open dialogue with scientists and professional practitioners, and sees itself as a learning organisation. Besides continuous internal monitoring for the purposes of quality assurance and quality development, the work of the Foundation is professionally evaluated within the framework of long-term external accompanying research with renowned partners and in research projects.³

The Scientific Advisory Board, which is composed of independent scientific experts from various fields, advises the Foundation on continuous accompanying research and monitoring and on the further development of its offerings.

Outlook

In the long term, the "Haus der kleinen Forscher" Foundation aims to strengthen the educational opportunities of all children between the ages of three and ten in Germany. To achieve this ambitious objective, the Foundation will intensify its collaboration with the federal and state governments, with companies, and with other partners and will strengthen the local networks.

² "Haus der kleinen Forscher" Foundation (2016). *Pedagogic Approach of the "Haus der kleinen Forscher" Foundation: A Guide to Facilitating Learning in Science, Mathematics, and Technology* (5th ed.). Berlin: "Haus der kleinen Forscher" Foundation.

³ All results are available (in German) in PDF form at www.haus-der-kleinen-forscher.de/home/ in the section headed "Wissenschaftliche Begleitung".