

International longterm voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V.
profile place of assignment
within the program: weltwärts, EVS



Kindertagesstätte „Marktspatzen“

<http://zweckverband.org/kita-marktspatzen/>



The nursery „Marktspatzen“ is a facility for childcare, located at the centre of Halle. It is runned by the association called „Zweckverband familienunterstützende Einrichtungen im evangelischen Kirchenkreis Halle-Saalkreis“.

The Kindertagesstätte (Kita) "Marktspatzen" (nursery "market of sparrows") is the oldest institution in the city of Halle (Saale). The beautiful brick building and the green , earthy yard area exude a calm, warm atmosphere.

The joy on beeing outside and on the free game, the fun on singing and making music and the enthusiasm for creative projects are typical for this kindergarten.

52 children, from two years on until the age of 6/7, are seperated in 3 groups and cared by a total of eight full-time staff and one person, who pass a "Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr" (FSJ, national voluntary service in the social sector).

Basics of work from the "Marktspatzen" are Christian values and the Church year.

In the nursery the children are learning and living the peaceful cooperation in small familiar groups, without letting the individual needs of each of the kids disregarded.

There exists a very close cooperation with the market church and other day-care centres from the association. Also a profitable and reliable cooperation with the parents from the childrens is very important to us. Parents are involved in the "Förderverein" (engl. booster club), make feasts and accompany the children on outings and excursions.

Field of engagement and activities of the volunteer within place of assignment

The voluntary service at this poa mainly is social and caring work with children!

The volunteer is assigned to a fixed (age-)group. In this fixed group are about 20 children at the age of 4 to 6 years. However, she or he will have contact with all children and parents, because the volunteer will also help out in other areas of the nursery.

Further areas of engagement:

- temporary personnel in other groups
- performance of work in the sector domestic economy
- participation to service consultations (two times per month) and other activities in the team

Activities in working with groups:

- support for group activities (such as crafts, preschool work, thematic work like: water, electricity, finding out roads, etc.)
- participation in the „morning circle“ (every day at the beginning of the work)
- support dressing the children, toileting, brushing teeth, with bringing to bed, handing out meals, etc.
- company the groups on excursions
- preparation and implementation of different offers for the preschool-children

Please be aware:

- Since you work with kids, it might be quite loud
- The children do not speak english and only few staff members speak english!
- You will have a quite fixed duty-roster!

Volunteers profile – Specific for this place of assignment:

- enthusiasm for working with children
- openness to religious themes and religious education
- *(not mandatory, but welcome:)* skills in the area of sports, music, cultural and/or creative work or handicraft and the interest to bring in this specific knowledge into the work with the children
- openminded and proactive behavior
- ability to work in a team
- curiosity and the will to find a common language with the team, to find a way to communicate with the other teammembers
- certificate of good conduct without any entries

Volunteers profile – General

- 18 to 28 years (exceptions can be made, when reasonable)
- (high-) school graduation or comparable personal suitability
- basic knowledge of English and willingness to learn German starting in home country
- motivation: voluntary service as an opportunity to learn in different fields and to get involved with (civil) society (voluntary service as learning and peace service)
- openness to the special structure of a voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle, that means: willingness to participate in the accompanying educational program, to develop and implement one or more small project(s) and to get occupied and engaged with topics and activities of (local) civil society,
- interest in global relationships and peace politics as well as education on these topics
- preferable already dedication in civil society in the home country, willingness to get involved in civil society in the home country after returning

Reports of former volunteers

Isena, 2016-17

While working in the kindergarten, I learned many things about children from basic tasks like how to change a pampers, until how to insist more when they say "No" for changing their clothes while they go to sleep, how to have a lot of patience, how to be careful with my body language and try not to give them the wrong message: smiling back at them when they do something wrong is like telling them: "Yes, go ahead, you are doing it right!".

Saying "No" to the children is important, they distinguish the right and the wrong. Explaining why shouldn't they do something is even better, but here comes the big challenge: the German language!

How did I manage to communicate with children? Well... I failed many times. But that didn't stop me.

Their educators speak German and that helps a lot to hear many words, to hear how they sound, to get familiar to the language and a good advice is to speak, speak, speak in German even if it is wrong how you are saying it, it is essential to speak German.

It begins with "Hallo", playing with the children outside with sand, painting, laughing, looking after them while they play, eating together, washing hands, taking them to sleep, changing their clothes, eating again after sleeping, washing the dishes in the kitchen and at the end of the day comes "tschüss". During this normal day, you learn about your weaknesses, about yourself, sometimes you do it right sometimes not, but it is essential to know that is a process of learning of children, of learning of yourself and in the end... to become a better you.

Ivana, 2015-16

Every day I came to work at 10:30, first what I do is leave my stuff and go outside, because children are already outside, especially in summer. Sometimes we stay in kindergarten and make some stuff

(depending on the weekly theme). Then if we are outside or inside, at 11:30 all kids came in, go to the bathroom, wash their hands and use toilet. When they finish, I always go to the kitchen and bring food downstairs. Then we sing before eating. At 12:30 lunch is over, kids go again to the bathroom and I clean the table. After that I join them and we go to the sleeping room. I help them to dress and put on sleep. Then I have free time from 13:00 till 14:30.

That can be sometimes so boring, but sometimes not, because I make something, prepare something for kids, e.g. for Christmas (when it is Christmas time), Easter, our festival or our weekly theme etc. Then I go to help again to dress up children after sleeping. Then at 15:00h we have snack time, they eat what they bring from home. I prepare table and just sitting with them and eat. After that around 15:30h we are outside and playing in the yard. Every second day i do dishes after 'snack time' form 15:30 till 16:00. Sometime also, when the woman who works in the kitchen, is not there I done the kitchen stuff all day and it is not difficult, sometimes I am so happy that I am in the kitchen, alone, in silent, haha. My work day ends at 16:30 or 17:00 (every second day I work a half hour more).



What is important in my kindergarten. Be on time, be honest about everything (here i think mostly on your emotions), look at all employers like on family because they work like that. I don't have some big conflicts, because you can always speak with them and fix everything. I have misunderstandings about some stuff when they give me a schedule about what to do when children are sleeping and that all was about cleaning. I was unhappy about that and felt bad. So I decided to tell my boss, then we talk ed and

he explained me some things (they do some little things of cleaning like dust in furniture) and told me if i don't want to do then I don't need. I did that every day, because it is not difficult, but I never saw that somebody there did that, but after I told that to my boss they also started to clean and I saw them. So the first one who will always help you is the boss, but not only him, the others are also nice. The best mentor for me was Katja. I was in her and Connys group, but Katja is better, she is so special.

In general this voluntary service brought me a lot. I can not find the right words to explain that. It brings you a lot of experience and not on works habits or that kind of field, but also life valuable experience. I got a lot of changes in myself, my way of thinking, doing something, speaking everything is changed in positive way. At first, when I came here, I was like "OMG what I have done, why I came here, so far away of my family. I am not ready for this, I don't have age to be like this, to be serious and have some daily work habits like my mom and dad". But guys believe me it was worth it! After one month I grew up in some other person.

So be different, be brave and be volunteer! There is not a lot of people like us. In this way you can change yourself and when you change yourself then you can change everything on this world.