

International longterm voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V.



profile place of assignment
within the program: EVS, weltwärts

KindElternZentrum Lieskau

<http://www.kindelternzentrum.de/>



The KindElternZentrum (KEZ) is a place of encounter for young and old from the village Lieskau and its surroundings. It is located about 10 km from the centre of Halle. It consists of a „Kindertagesstätte (Kita)“ (nursery), a „Hort“ (after school care club) and a „Familienbereich“ (family area) and thus addresses children as well as adults. It is runned by the „Villa Jühling gemeinnützige evangelische Familienservice GmbH“ (a supporting organisation running different nurseries and after school care clubs in Halle and surrounding).

The „Kindertagesstätte (Kita)“ offers places for about 100 kids from 0 to 6 years. The Hort is located in the primary school Lieskau and addresses children between 6 and 10. In both, children are offered projects, games and materials to encounter the world with curiosity and try out own ways to deal with it. There is a special focus on nature and environmental education.

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

The volunteer is assigned to the Kita and here to a fixed (age) group. However, s/he will have contact with all children and parents.

Activities:

- accompaniment of individual children in free play
- participation in the meals
- participation and support at excursions or trips
- participation and support at celebrations
- own program offers for children in the sporty, musical, artistic area, depending on the interests and skills of the volunteer
- make "Europe" accessible to the kids by talking about his/her country and the life there or by putting those aspects into games
- make the English language and/or his/her mother tongue accessible to the kids, be it in daily games and routines or in special theme-related projects

Volunteers profile – Specific for this place of assignment

- enthusiasm for working with children and their families
- openness to children with disabilities
- interest in sports, music, cultural and/or creative work, cooking and interest to bring in this knowledge in the work with children
- preferable male
- need a certificate of good conduct without any entries

Volunteers profile – General

- 18 to 30 years
- (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 is: 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 European 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
- especially appreciate applications by young men ;)

Motivation

In the KEZ, social learning plays a big role: kids should experience themselves as part of a community to make them learn to take responsibility for themselves and others. To reach this aim, kids need to make varied experiences.

An international volunteer can support the variety of this experiences in a unique way: s/he brings the kids into contact with a further language, a further region of the world, maybe a further religion, with further talents, further games and songs, further ideas, further ways of being ... ;).

Reports of former volunteers

Suzana, 2017-18 ... Why volunteering service in Halle is more than just a year of volunteering

Volunteering service with Friedenskreis is more than just one year being abroad and working in one of the places of assignment. It's a whole process of learning and also growing professionally and individually. Being by your own somewhere abroad, out of your comfort zone it's the best challenge that you can do for your self. Many of people can think that it is the same thing as living by yourself in your country, but I can say for sure that it's not the same. I was living alone for seven years in my country and sometimes I think that in these 6 months of volunteering I learned more than those 7 years in Albania. This because everything is new. New language, new people, new flatmates, new apartment, new conditions, new mentality and a lot (and just) beautiful things. Everything that u need it's just positivity and energy to use all these new things in good and productive way.



Living in a country that speaks a different language is the best opportunity to learn that language. The rest is our choice. New people are the best way to know your self. Having new flatmates (especially if u have always lived with your family) is the best way to learn how to fit in with other people and to be more tolerant. New mentality teaches us another way how the things work and give us another perspective of the world. Knowing the world means also knowing our self.

Even that Halle looks like a small city and many people can think that it hasn't not to much to offer you, actually they are totally wrong. You have a lot possibility to be engaged in every field you like. Here u can find a lot of groups of interest, it's just depends in what do u like. You can can find a lot of political, social or cultural activities and events. But this is not all. You can get engaged also in these activities. Starting from January I'm part of the female football team in Halle and this opportunity I did not have in my country. The other volunteers are also involved in different types of activities. Some at dancing classes, art groups, political activities and more all of us have a lot of new friends and of course a lot of fun.

Lejlas (excerpt), 2016-17

(...)I thought I will have often reflections and conversations about my work, but suddenly I realised I do not know what actually my work is. What is my voluntary service?! Since I was volunteering in Kindergarten, my boss said to me in the beginning that there will not be any so concrete activities done by me with the kids but somehow I did not see then the point of my voluntary service there. But, I am person who does not give up so easily, so I decide that my voluntary service will be what I make from it. So, I started to do everything what other stuff do there just to fill in my 6 hours there and sometimes I enjoyed but sometimes it was for me just waste of time and really boring. Somehow, I felt I do not belong there, especially when everyone is talking about how much stress it is and not even thinking about how stress can be to me because I don't speak the language and it's my first time in working atmosphere and I am VOLUNTEER! (which means all very important things up which I have written what I think volunteerism is, but also the fact that I am doing all the things voluntary and they are paid for them) This was my period where I really started to question myself. As I said, I did not give up. I just turned my motivation in learning more German which end up I would say ok, because I did not even know the word in the beginning, so I think I am now more rich for a bit knowing another language. I also started to travel more and apply for seminars here and outside of Germany and all this made me again to have some kind of motivation for this project. (..)

Belen, 2015-16

My daily dutties in the kindergarten

My day starts at 9:00 in the morning I take the bus during the winter and go by bike when the weather is nice. From 9 to 12 we play, read books, some special activities depending on the day.

On Wednesday the kids have sport and we usually go to play outside or in another building from KEZ, also in Lieskau. Almost everyday we make Morgen Kreis, we get all together and start singing one song or playing one game depending on their mood. We talk about something that they can discuss or just about our weekend etc. At 12:30 we go to eat, we prepare the tables, each day 2 kids are responsible for that. After the lunch they have to brush their teeth. Then some kids have to sleep and the rest play, read books, draw. They wake up around 14:30 and eat before going to play again in the garden. On friday we make 'Forest day' we take books about nature and we go walking there, you will see, the forest is right next to the kindergarten and is so beautiful! At 15:00 I finish and take the bus at 15:10. I hope you will have



nice time during this year and enjoy everybody at work. I am sure you will like it :)

Stefan, 2014-2015 ... 1 Day at Kita Lieskau

My name is Stefan. I have a wonderful opportunity to volunteer in Kita Lieskau, a place near town called Halle in Germany. Right away when you enter the kindergarten you will notice how everything and everybody is family friendly and also you will feel all the joy produced from children's laughter and playing. You will be immediately greeted by my coworkers and pointed into right direction if you need any help.

Because it's a kindergarten for a children from 0-6 years old and it hosts around 90-100 kids, a really good grouping system is present. Based on age they are put in a certain group which are called by colors (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue), and based on their color the room and the stuff inside are themed by it (In red group, chairs, tables, plates, etc are all red and so on in the other groups) . In every group there is around 2-3 workers, and sometimes we need to help the other groups if there is a worker on vacation or if someone is sick.

I work in a Yellow group where the children are currently from 3-4 years old. I take care of a 20 children together with my tutor, and with one more coworker. My job is to help as much as I can both my coworkers and children if they need something, and as the months pass they give me more and more authority to do certain stuff as they trust me more.

Regular day starts with me arriving at 9 A.M , coworkers are already there and most of a kids already play outside in a garden. We make a small morning circle around 10 A.M and there we sing and talk about what happened outside our time in kindergarten. We usually let them play outside or if we have some special activities for them we must finish them till 11:30 cause then we have a lunch and after that it's time for their Midday sleep at 12. Usually that is the hardest part to put them to sleep cause lot of them still have the energy and don't like sleeping during the day. At 14 P.M we wake them up and help them dress and make them a Brunch (usually fruits or cereals) and then they stay there till their parents pick them up between 15 - 16 h. I leave at 15 P.M and with a bus I go back to Halle.