

ESC volunteering at Kindergruppe Simsalabim Zwerg

What is Kindergruppe Simsalabim Zwerg?

The Kindergruppe Simsalabim Zwerg is a small kindergarten in the 3rd district of Vienna. It's based in an apartment with a small courtyard with a sandpit and the possibility to plant some vegetables and flowers. The Kindergruppe has a kitchen, a crafting room, a gym with a slide and a room where the kids can do more quiet activities like reading books or doing role plays. Our Kindergarten is a non-profit organisation run by the parents. We have a team of 3 teachers. There are maximum 14 kids between 2,5 and 6 years with 2 teachers taking care of them Monday to Friday from 8 am till 4pm.

The idea of the organisation is based on a humanistic philosophy. We live diversity, are open minded to different cultures, religions and rainbow families. The main target of the teachers are to build up individual relationships with the kids and to respect and take their individual needs serious. Our meaning of education is to accompany the children and help if they need it, but not lecture them. Each child is accepted as an individual, encouraged to develop self-consciousness and self-confidence.

Proposed activities

Our Kindergarten is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm and we would like you to participate in the daily life from about 9am to 3pm with a break of half an hour at lunch time. You will support the teachers in their daily work with the kids.

Your task will be the following:

- play, paint, sing, read, do handcraft etc. with the children
- bring in your own ideas, plan and realize own activities supported by the teachers or parents
- bring in your own cultural background and mother language, food etc.
- accompany the kids by public transport
- help to prepare breakfast, lunch and snacks

Your social and pedagogical learning outcomes will be the following, you learn how to

- observe the children's play and not to direct it
- see the kids as individuals and learn more about their different personalities
- support to solve conflict situations or problems
- motivate kids to do things by themselves
- communicate in a non-violent way

You will get to know

- Austrian Culture and food
- Vienna and its surroundings
- German language
- different ways of living and thinking

The teachers work child-centered, which means, there is a focus on topics which come from the children themselves, like dinosaurs, pirates, sensory material, maths, literatur, circus, theater, nature, environment protection etc.) - the teachers act on the topics that come up. Activities or material that are offered regarding these topics come spontaneously from the teachers' observations and contact with the children. There will be space and opportunities for the volunteer to bring in her/his ideas, skills and knowledge.

Recruitment process and profile of the volunteer

Teachers and parents of the Kindergruppe are open-minded and won't discriminate any applicant because of her/his gender, religion, ethnic group, social and cultural background or sexual orientation. The volunteer should be interested in working with young children, be open-minded, be interested in getting to know different people, cultures, languages, ways of thinking. He/she should respect children, see them as individuals who shall be taken serious, and approach them respectful, not talk down to them but meet them eye to eye. We invite the volunteer to reflect also on challenges with us and discuss questions and thoughts that will come up during her/his stay with us.

If you are interested, you fill in the Melange application form and send it together with your CV (curriculum vitae) and the details of your supporting organisation to Grenzenlos: application@melange.at They will forward your documents to the hosting project (in our case to Simalabim Zwerge) where the selection will be made.

All available placements of Grenzenlos ESC projects are open to everyone (fulfilling the general ESC criteria). However, in the selection procedure a preference is shown for candidates with fewer opportunities. You will be informed about the outcome of recruitment process after the application deadlines. For more information, please visit www.melange.at