



Short version of the concept "Kids at Jacobs" (Update May 2014)

The mission of *Kids at Jacobs* is in accordance with the German civil law code (BGB), the federal welfare law (BSHG), the law on children and adolescents (KJHG), the daycare and preschool law of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen and the 1989 UN convention on the rights of the child. We at *Kids at Jacobs* feel this convention encapsulates our philosophy. It specifies rights which we are cherish. There rights are, in particular, the following:

- the equality of all children regardless of gender, race, language, religion or social background
- the active participation of children in all matters in which they are concerned
- the right to life and the promotion of the development of children
- the right to be safeguarded from violence or mistreatment

Premises

Kids at Jacobs is a bilingual and multicultural institution in which both German and English are spoken. We support three groups: one group of twenty for children between ages 3 and 6 (preschool group) and two toddler groups for children aged 6 months to 3 years. The toddler groups consist of a maximum of 10 children each. Each group is attended by two professional teachers and usually one volunteer.

Kids at Jacobs is open for children of employees of Jacobs University and for children whose parents reside in the city of Bremen. Jacobs University Bremen provided funds for the renovation of the premises in 2004. We have three spacious group rooms, two bed rooms, two child-friendly bathrooms, two multi-purposes rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and an office. There are two beautiful playgrounds on our premises.

The green campus of the university with its spacious lawns is ideal for outdoor activities, as are nearby parks.

Opening Hours

Our opening hours are from 8 am to 5 pm. We close only between Christmas and New Years' Eve and for two weeks during the summer school vacation. We are flexible in regard to drop/pick-up.

Food

We provide a varied breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. We strongly believe in a healthy diet, and we serve mainly organic food. The food is included in the monthly contribution.

Educational Philosophy

We want our kids to develop and grow in a loving, caring and respectful environment. We support parents, and we provide kids with the necessary skills and education they need while they grow up. We promote a mix of free play and assisted offerings, and we are proud to be able to communicate with all children in two languages (German/English). Our mission rests on an educational partnership between teachers and parents based on mutual respect and trust.

We promote the well-being of our children, and we encourage each and every one of our children to develop a well-rounded, independent-minded, responsible and caring personality. We love and foster curiosity, originality and creativity. We promote friendships and provide skills children will need in their future life, among them:

- self-organization and competence to master every-day issues (for instance during meals, take on/off clothes, get into shoes etc.)
- social competence (empathy, respect) and competence to deal with conflicts
- consumer awareness (diet, environmental protection, toys)
- media competence (music, picture books and books)
- health education (diet, hygiene, clothing, movement and control of body)
- cultural competence (bilingual, multicultural environment; daily experience of festivities, traditions, music, art, language and literature from different cultural backgrounds)
- ethics (tolerance, team performance, self-respect, sense of justice, democratic norms and procedures)

We provide music sessions and take the children to the Jacobs University sports hall on a regular basis.