

Bilingual Nature Kindergarten Lumberjack

*“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.”
Rachel Carson, Silent Spring*



The Münchner Schulstiftung Ernst v. Borries opened a bilingual English/German Nature Kindergarten in the Aubinger Lohe in Munich-Lochhausen in September 2015. Often children lack the time and even more so, the space, to satisfy their natural need for movement outdoors. Yet it is now scientifically proven that the time spent outdoors is important for our well-being as well as our inner balance. All the senses are activated with the calm and stillness of the forest anchoring children in the here and now. Children learn how to concentrate more effectively, to deal better with stress as well as making the connection from casual play to structured learning. Our Nature Kindergarten will have a maximum of 20 children aged 3 to ca. 6. The four person educational team is made up of three recognized kindergarten teachers

assisted by a voluntary ecological year intern (*Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr*), a federal service volunteer (*Bundesfreiwilligen*) or an intern. The head teacher also has the additional training as a Natur- und Erlebnispädagogin (outdoor and adventure educator).

Our day looks like this:

7:45	7:45 Early group at our forest (flexible drop off times between 7:45–9:00)
8:45	Snack
9:30	Morning circle in the forest
10:00	Free-play, educational activity, pre-school, hike
12:15	Closing Circle in the forest
13:00	First pick-up time
13:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Afternoon play time either at the construction trailer or in the forest. Flexible pick-up time depending on the hours booked

There are only a limited number of late group spots (14:30-15:30), therefore we cannot guarantee everyone a spot. We work with each application individually to find a solution works for everyone.

A warm lunch is provided Monday through Friday. Children bring their own morning snack daily.

Costs

The monthly fees are 320–410 euros (dependent upon the hours booked); additional cost include hot lunch for 72 euros monthly and a materials and trip fee of 40 euros yearly.

Educational Focus

Natural environment

The direct relationship to the environment provides the children with a broad, founded, life long knowledge about the connection between nature and the circle of life.

Creativity/Phantasy and training of the Senses

Through play with only available, natural materials, all the senses of the children are used.

Language and Literacy

Language acquisition through increased use of role play in the forest; books and stories; independent speaking during projects and at kids conferences.

Mathematics

Counting and comparing the different attributes of natural material, three dimensional geometry (building tipis, kites, forest swings, forest sofa, teeter-totter...).

Natural Science Experiments and Research

Comprehension through physical experience. The rules of physics taught through trial and error.

Social Competence

Helping each other, being considerate, relying on each other and being patient with others, building projects together in the forest.

Trips

Especially during the winter months: trips to the library, museums, trades people etc.

Concentration

Watching nature; the calm and stillness of the forest gives the children an inner balance and well-being and promotes concentration.

Exercise

The forest offers room and space to climbing, balance, hop, run, ..., this prevents posture problems and promotes a healthy development of the child.

Fine Motor Skills

Whittling, threading, painting, weaving, ...

Music

Singing, playing of Orff instruments, Forest xylophones.

Pre-school

Kid's conferences, projects, reflection: training participation and democracy, learning asthmatic basics with materials from „Zahlenwald“ from Prof. Preiss, introduction to the alphabet, phonetics, rhymes, etc.



Application

Tel. 01575 9078829 or info@lumberjack-muenchen.de

The Münchner Schulstiftung Ernst v. Borries includes, besides the Jan-Amos-Comenius-Kinderhaus with nursery, kindergarten and school children program, the bilingual Jan-Amos-Comenius full-day Grade School in Pasing, the state recognized Obermenzinger Secondary School, and the state sanctioned Private Secondary School Dr. Florian Überreiter in Haidhausen.