

Kau Yan School (Kindergarten)
School Year 2016-2017
Principal's Message (2)

3 Mar 2017

Our school always focus on staff training and professional development. Therefore, different training programmes or exchange activities, such as visiting different early childhood education institutions, are arranged for our staff to learn more about teaching models of other institutions. We implement what we have heard and seen back at school and reflect on personal teaching, in order to provide high quality education to our children. During this Chinese New Year holiday, head teacher Ms Wong, head teacher Ms Kwong and I joint a German Swiss education exchange programme organized by Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Education Department. It widened our horizon, provided us a rare opportunity to share the implement of education theories with co-workers from other secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens, and let us have deeper understanding of curriculums and bridging between different education levels.

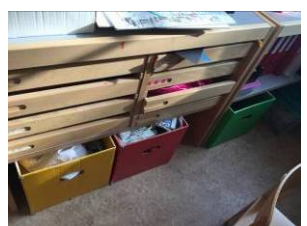


Through this German Swiss exchange experience, we learned the schedules, curriculum models and education theories of 6 early childhood education institutions. We also exchanged thoughts on environment setting, education methods, assessment tools and kindergarten-primary bridging. Although early childhood education workers are from different places, we are all passionate about delivering the best education and service to children, assist their development and growth. This makes us proud of our profession and treasure the resources that we have. First-hand experience of their teaching models and having professional conversation with them have brought us new ideas for curriculum planning.

All 6 early childhood education institutions have their unique characteristics but they all train children's potential in different aspects, using environment setting and teaching materials to stimulate children, aim at topics that they are interested in and carry out exploratory researches, unifying all learning areas naturally. The lesson observation consolidated our belief "teachers need to have keen observation on children and extend learning based on their interests.

Besides, we also reflect on the importance of environmental design on children's learning. All 6 institutions provide sufficient time and space for children to explore in the environment and interact with each other. However, different environmental stimulants will result different effects. Take Waldkindergarten as an example,

they use natural environment as teaching materials. The change of weather between different seasons creates different challenges. Children are more confident, calmer, better at problem solving and braver than other schools. Although Kindergarten Farbertorle does not have a lot of outdoor learning space, they can still train children's self-discipline and build their love towards exploration through diverse activities and different learning areas with clear campus planning. On the contrary, with a messy and boring environment, children would become confused, impatient and lost learning focus. Therefore, we will continue building the school environment to match the curriculum focus and develop children's self-learning characteristics.



Hort Letten Rousseaustrasse 43

This kindergarten implement mixed-age education model. There is one-hour outdoor activity, one-hour indoor self-selected activity and another hour of activity time. Mainly for children to learn communication skills.



Kindergarten Imfeldstrasse

This Kindergarten's main objective is to allow non-native German speaking children to learn German through interaction with teachers and other children. Teachers provide different tools and teaching materials for children to learn. Even for those children who are about to go to primary school, there will be two extra afternoon activity sessions for them each week, to help them with a smooth transition to primary school.



Waldkindergarten

This is a forest kindergarten which follows Waldorf Education Philosophy, forest is their classroom. A teacher led us to join the lesson on that day. After a short walk, teacher would allow children to explore at a specific location. Some children would slide down from a slope, some would collect tree branches and some would play with the melting ice on the ground. Just like Waldorf Education Philosophy, teacher provides space for children to self-explore and solve problems. When children need help, they would ask their friends for help, this improves their social development.



Gampiross

This kindergarten is mainly for day care, look after children daily diet and provide a safe activity environment for them to support double-income parents in the area.



Kindergarten Farbertorle

This kindergarten is a government-funded school, they value children's self-learning spirit, allows them to lead their individual learning. Therefore, enhances their interest in learning. The school is divided into different learning area, allows children to arrange their own activities and learning method. Teachers would act as children's learning companions, using different scenarios and leading questions, encourage children to think and put their plans into practice and bravely



Miriam-Kindergarten in Pattonville

The indoor fitness room is the characteristic of this kindergarten. For each session, a fitness teacher would run games with 7-10 children.

express their thoughts.

Other than school visits, we have also visited many local churches, learned about the development and changes of churches for the last hundreds of years, met and dined with co-workers of Basel Mission and ruminate in front of the finally resting place of Rev. Rudolf Lechler. The most memorable part is visiting Basel Mission and meet with the posterity of missionaries. At that moment we are connected with people and things that are hundred years ago, historical stories came alive again. We are touched by the staunching and devotion of the missionaries when they established Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong and their care and passion for Chinese people to know about the gospel. It encouraged us to reflect on our Christianity. Through these activities, my sense of belonging to Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong and Kau Yan Church has gotten stronger. I have given more energy to continue “educating and evangelizing the community”. We have to thank Mr Tsang for his arrangement, allowing us to have this precious opportunity to learn the origin history of Tsung Tsin Mission.



Also, through exchange programmes, co-workers from different schools can join together, know more about each other, share their teaching experience and have professional conversations in order to have a full picture of education system. It helps us reflect on the aim of kindergarten-primary bridging.



Our team will uphold school's vision, do our best to build a safe and happy environment, design a curriculum that encourages self-learning and help children to develop characters of love and responsible to carry forward Christ's spirit of universal love. We will provide children with high quality whole person education to lay a solid foundation of learning.

May God bless you!

Yours faithfully,



KWAN Shan, Principal