



Pedagogical

CONCEPT

Tabea Peters

Hope for One e.V.



Content

1. Introduction	2
2. Philosophy of the institution	3
3. Basic Terms of our work	4
4. Goals and Priorities for our pedagogical work	5
5. Social Space	6
6. Exemplary operational sequence	6
7. Cooperation with parents	8
8. Cooperation within the team	9
9. Cooperation with other Institutions	9
9.1 <i>Kidsfest Kids-Church in evangelical daycares</i>	9
9.2 <i>Pedagogical commission under consideration of the needs of children age 3 to 6</i>	9
9.3 <i>Revised exemplary plan</i>	10
10. Quality Assurance	11
11. Childhood Protection according §8a SGB (Social Code) VIII	11
12. Public Relations	11
13. Closing Statement	11
14. References	12

1. Introduction

Dear Parents, Educators and Colleagues,

In the year 2012 we started the Kidsfest Project in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen. Since then the work has increased constantly and now we run our program in seven different locations weekly. Through our previous experiences we're able to make everyone feel welcome and involved. One major focus of our Kidsfest Children's Church is to impart with Christian values about God, people and social interaction.

The following pedagogical concept will, explain closely our goals and how we can achieve them with you. Herby we'll first explain our mission statement and the general framework. Following we'll explain specific goals and priorities of the Kidsfest Children's Church. This will be outlined to allow an insight of the social environment and structure. Later on the Exemplary operational Sequence will be displayed and explained the focused on our pedagogical goals. Next we'll briefly give you an insight of our cooperation with parents, our team and with other pedagogical and Christian institutions. We'll also explain our view of advanced education and quality management as well as how to prevent and handle cases of child abuse through these topics. We'll also introduce you to our public relations and our pedagogical concept will end with the closing Statement and References.

The goal of this concept is to give you an overview and a profound insight of our work. At Kidsfest Kids-Church our focus is Children; with their wishes, needs and ideas they are the absolute center.

Kindly regards,

The Team of Kidsfest Kids-Church

2. Philosophy of the institution

The philosophy of Hope for One NGO is based on the Christian image of humanity founded on Christian values. We believe that every human was created by God precious, unique and as an individual designer of his own life in the frame of his potentials.

Therefore everyone deserves an unconditional acceptance and appreciation no matter the age, gender, nativity, religion or cultural background. Meanwhile it also shows the responsibility for our own actions. Resultant we have our vision or our overriding goal:

„We want to see leaders teachers and pastors raised up out of the streets of the cities worldwide so they in return can minister to the next generation.“

Our pedagogic work is preventative: It is more sustainable to build boys and girls today than to change grown men and women tomorrow. That's why we reach people before they experience everyday life crisis because then they can endure and overcome them through trust in themselves and in God. By starting to strengthen them early enough, difficulties won't become major problems. Therefore we focus our program on children and our desire is to strengthen their self-esteem and their trust in their own abilities.

With our Kidsfest project we'd like to provide hope and build futures. We are convinced that every person is precious and loved by God. Many children have never heard nor experienced that truth – and we want to change that. We meet them right where they are and invest personally in their lives. Thereby we pass God's love on in a fun and accessible way and like that the base for hope, future and a responsible lifestyle is laid.

We want to reach this goal by:

- Giving children the possibility to encounter God's love through our weekly programs in their neighborhood.
- Investing in personal relationships with children. They are precious and should experience that someone loves them and cares for them.
- Efficiently meeting their needs and problems like poverty, violence, abuse and hopelessness.

Also we are very aware of the digital and networking world that they surround themselves with every day. We can't expect to get the attention of young people by presenting in a boring way, talking about topics that don't fit into their lives. Our program is relevant through the content as well as the presentation. Nowadays children are confronted with questions and themes that even challenge adults and this is why we are only relevant if we speak about themes and answer questions that are asked daily within their surrounding.

Overall children are our focus. Without looking at the person or their appearance it is important for us to meet every child in a positive, appreciating and respectful manner.

3. Basic Terms of our work

1) Organization

Our project Kidsfest used to be a part of the NGO freestyle. In 2016 it became an own NGO called Hope for One. Our Organization is a part of the German social welfare called Diakonie. We are official German partners of Metro World Child. Metro World Child is a faith based NGO that reaches weekly 170,000 children (as of 2016) worldwide.

2) Financing

Kidsfest is an ideational Project financed only through donations and development funds. Through versatile voluntary support and commodity donations we can limit the costs to a minimum to insure that the resources effectively benefit the children.

3) Target audience

The program is oriented on children age four to ten but younger as well as older children participate on a regular bases for example, with their siblings. Of course the parents are always welcome as well, at Kidsfest everybody is always invited to join us by watching and/ or participating.

4) Locations and Times

Kidsfest Kids-Church is during the afternoons on playgrounds in 2 boroughs of Berlin. Currently we visit seven different playgrounds on a weekly basis. You can find our current times and locations on our website www.kidsfest.de. There are no programs running from Christmas to Easter for natural reasons like for example the weather.

5) Staffing

Christian & Tabea Peters (M.A. Social management & B.A. Social work) established the Kidsfest program in 2012 and have led it since. Currently there are three employees working part time. We work with an interdisciplinary team of pastors, educators and social workers. Only through intensive voluntary service this program can be made possible. Presently there are three volunteers investing their spare time. We have four spots for interns available in this moment.

6) Facilities & Vehicles

Our NGO Hope for One has an office in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen for administration, planning and training purposes. Kidsfest Kids-Church doesn't need any rooms or facilities for it is an outdoor program for which we use a converted truck with a portable mobile stage. That gives us the possibility to perform our program flexibly at various different locations. All the necessary props such as games, decoration, prizes, themes etc. are provided and available in the truck.

Through a cooperation with a local evangelical community church we get to use their facilities for our teens-program.

4. Goals and Priorities for our pedagogical work

The goals and priorities for Kidsfest Kids-Church deduce from our institutional philosophy and vision and concrete them. Following we will introduce and explain our goals.

1) We give children a chance to encounter God.

A lot of people have an abstract understanding of God. We make faith tangible and comprehensible for children. The bible shows us how important children are for God: "Let the children come to me!" Jesus said in Matthew 19:14. The hope they get through God can be a major advancement for their resilience concerning their way of dealing with and overcoming crisis.

2) We strengthen the self-esteem of children

Through the Christian view of mankind and the faith in a loving God we communicate to the children that they are loved, wanted and unique. Meanwhile we strengthen their trust in their own abilities by showing them their opportunities of choices and decisions on a daily basis.

3) We impart social competences in relation to others

During our program we continuously discuss themes like loving your neighbor, honesty, self-control, kindness, gratefulness and peer pressure. We as staff show the children how to treat others in a respectful and appreciative manner through a positive example.

4) We strengthen parents and families.

For a lot of parents we are one of the first points of contact. We want to support families preventive. We connect parents, through personal contact, with programs and counseling centers of the help system.

5) We enable inclusion.

Participating in Kidsfest Kids-Church is free of charge and available for everyone, neither the income of the parents nor their sociocultural background matters. We support different refugee centers as well as giving children of all different kind of backgrounds the opportunity to come together. In this way prejudices can be reduced and friendships can be developed.

6) We meet physical need.

We meet physical needs: we offer clothing, toys and other items as required. Deeds speak louder than words – therefore we help individually wherever there is physical need in accordance to the situation.

7) We accompany children in their responsibility.

Through our program for teenagers we are now able to support the children and young teenagers to take responsibility for their own lives in various areas. Thereby we are creating a sustainable work in relation to their life's, their everyday life and especially their transition to adulthood.

5. Social Space

In order to reach the named goals within the pedagogic and church work, it's from enormous importance to build up a connection to their concrete aspects of life and culture. Especially relevant hereby is their individual family background and their social integration. Their general social environment is also important. Kidsfest Kids-Church takes place in the boroughs Lichtenberg and Marzahn-Hellersdorf. Thereby we are in the direct life-environment of the families. These boroughs are characterized by prefab estate, unemployment, low income, addiction problems (especially alcohol abuse) and often times educational alienation. In the neighborhoods in those districts are plenty of leisure facilities and community centers/offices as a contact point for children, teenagers and families. Beside public authorities there are additional information centers with communal assignment. Those include but are not limited to the areas addictions, families, debt advice service and psychological diseases. In personal conversations we are therefore able to suggest and impart offers and possibilities of those networking services. However the inhibition level to actually visit such a center is mostly very high for the target group. That's why we have our programs outdoors on playgrounds in direct living environment of the children. Because like that it's very low-threshold and everyone is able to first watch without direct involvement.

A lot of the participating children have a difficult familiar backgrounds. Since a lot of parents have to work long hours, in order to have all the needed finances for their living their children are often home alone for most of the day. But sometimes even though the parents are physically present, age-appropriate and development supportive offers for the children's spare time are missing. That's why they spent many hours playing on their Computer, watching TV or using current smartphone apps or games within their peer groups. Often time's real social contacts fall short because of that. Furthermore some kids sadly encounter no sympathetic or unconditional acceptance and devotion at home. Some experience carelessness, disinterest or even hate instead of love. We believe that God loves everyone unconditionally and that's why we want to share and impart his love and acceptance especially towards those that encounter the opposite every day.

6. Exemplary operational sequence

Following you'll be shown a typical run of our 45 minute long Kidsfest Kids-Church Program in regards and explanation towards our previously named goals.

1) Starting with simple games

Every program starts with a couple of games for all children. These are simple games, easy to understand and bring a lot of fun. They also develop different competences of the children. The main points are hereby teamwork, cooperation, empathy, dexterity, orientation skills and knowledge. During those games we continuously inform everyone around what Kidsfest Kids-Church is, when it starts, where it is and how long it goes.

Within this time our main goals are: Since the goal of our program can only be reached, if every single one feels welcome and well, we really want to offer the children a time full of fun to catch on. It also conduces as transparency for the parents. Both children and parents can learn what Kidsfest is and what they can expect from the program. This "unofficial" start shall bring fun as well as being exciting and informative.

2) Formal Start

At kidsfest we have a clear common formal start as well as an ending later on. That's important in order to give the children security and orientation throughout the program. During Kidsfest the children build two teams, parted by boys and girls. We start with a countdown to make it obvious for everyone, when the structured program starts. We welcome all children and parents.

Right at the beginning we name and explain all the rules in order to make everybody, even the ones attending for the first time, feel involved. Many children are overwhelmed by the number of rules at home and in school, especially because they often times won't actually be applied. That's why we limited it to very few, short and easily understandable rules. Within them we explain where the kids have their place, where the staff has their place and when it's time for all of us to be silent for a while. We use a whistle to show the kids clearly when it's time to pause for a moment.

As soon as everybody is quiet we pray a short prayer in a language suitable for children. The goal hereby is to enable and show them a way to prayer and also how short and easy it can be. Thereby we minimize high expectations and obstacles towards prayer.

Afterwards we sing songs with simple moves with the kids. Every child can participate during the singing and dancing and by that can feel as a part of the group even with language barriers or other disabilities. Furthermore they can learn through the songs that they are precious and important.

Then we sing a song of the four principles that we believe and teach at Kidsfest. Those are:

1. **God loves me.** God loves every child, no matter where it comes from, how it looks and what it likes. His acceptance is unconditional.
2. **I make mistakes.** Everyone made mistakes in their life's, which stand between us and God.
3. **Jesus died for me.** Jesus came into this earth, to forgive us. Through his death on the cross and his resurrection he took our sins upon himself.
4. **I can decide to live for God.** God gave us a free will: It's our decision, to believe in him.

3) Games

This is a time with different games; it's a time that's very much loved by the kids. During a game, two players, one of each team, can compete and win against each other. It's very important that the games are fun and easy to understand as well as it having one clear winner in the end. The winner gets to choose a prize. The other one gets a little consolation prize.

With the games we pursue different goals: First of all, we want the kids to have fun. We want them to share the thrill within the group and to learn how to create an appreciative competition. It is important to us to support them and help them learn how to be a good winner and fair loser. Children often define themselves through their success in school, at computer games or in peer groups. We want to impart that every child is precious and loved by God, totally independent and unconnected to the achievement-oriented society. That's why we want to implement an atmosphere of appreciation throughout the competition. We support that goal by one encouraging host per team.

4) Quiet time

This is the time where we explain the rules for the lesson. It's the transitioning time from Excitement and fun during the games to the quietness for the lesson. Hereby the children get the chance to calm down and pause for a moment. This time also contains a few easy rules. The girls as well as the boys are respectively one team working together. Each team has four

balloons. If it gets too noisy, one balloon gets popped. If all four balloons get popped, the respective team won't get a surprise in the end of the program.

The goal is to offer the kids clear and fair rules, in order for them to not be dependent on the mood or arbitrariness of the adults. The visualization of the four chances through the four balloons helps the children to calm down again if it got louder. Experience says that not all the balloons have to ever get popped but normally everyone will get a surprise in the end.

5) Theme

The goal of each theme is to convey values for the children, values which are from importance for their everyday life and to illustrate action alternatives. As Kids-Church we impart knowledge about God and Christian values concerning men in general and our everyday life with one another. Herby it is very important to us to be relevant and concrete for the children. Each lesson includes four different components, which are presented by four different people – the **Introduction**, the **bible lesson**, the **object lesson** and the **Story**. The order is always the same, but the theme changes every week. Although each part of the lesson gets imparted by a different teacher, it is still one statement, communicated clearly and powerful.

Every theme starts with an introduction, illustrated through an object, a skit or something similar in order to introduce the topic to the children properly. The introduction includes a short entry point into the topic and its meaning. A matching story from the bible follows. The main character can serve as a positive as well as a negative example. Following another thought gets added to the basic statement via an object from the children's everyday life. All parts of the lesson get taken together conclusively, suitable for children through the story. The theme ends with a short child-oriented prayer.

6) Finalization

At the end of Kidfest Kids-Church we dismiss every child and their parents and thank them for attending. Thereby we communicate current information and announcements and every child receives a small surprise, because no one leaves empty handed at Kidfest Kids-Church. Afterwards there is a reserved time to talk personally to children and parents. As well as in the beginning of the program it is also in the end important to us to create a clear ending point. In order to give the children a clear start and a clear end. That gives the kids a sense of security. Finally we invite everyone to our next week's program.

7. Cooperation with parents

One goal of Kidfest Kids-Church is to strengthen families. Although children are the prime target group, we pursue a good connection and communication with parents and guardians. Therefore we are ready and willing to answer questions, listen to ideas and have conversations with the parents and guardians. We want to strengthen parents to realize and fulfil their educational tasks towards their children. In order to effectively accomplish these goals we work, within the social environment, existing counseling centers as well as with the responsible government office for youth welfare. It is important to build up a trustful relationship between parents and staff.

To help us accomplish that goal we plan a Brunch for Mothers in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen. We want to provide a place with the opportunity to communicate and talk in an enjoyable protected atmosphere. We see the children systemically rooted in their families, that's why it is our goal to enable a positive and enriching communication with parents.

8. Cooperation within the team

The team is very important for the realization and goals of the programs.. Only through partnership it is possible for ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary. Within a team you find a variety of gifts and talents, which maximize resources and capacities. It enables to share tasks and double the success. The Team helps to compensate ones weaknesses with the strengths of someone else.

Before the program starts, we have a set time for the team of the day. They meet in the office for a brief meeting, to discuss current information and the schedule for the day. Since the Kidsfest-Team mainly consists of voluntary workers we offer a weekly team evening for team building, planning and communication purposes.

Concrete arrangements for staff development and team support are:

- Evaluating and reflecting the pedagogic work within the team,
- Cooperation within the team apart from a certain team for the day,
- personal conversations with staff,
- Objective agreements between staff and leaders,
- Objective agreements within the team and
- Development of key objectives and general principles.

9. Cooperation with other Institutions

We want to be interconnected within the social environment of the children and want to utilize synergy effects. We cooperate with different institutions like churches, primary schools, daycares and leisure facilities. We are members of the working-group (as per § 78 of the German child and youth services act) in Berlin-Lichtenberg for better cooperation purposes and a good exchange. Our cooperation partners are the youth welfare provider NGO „Freestyle“, the school board „Christburg Campus - christliche Schulen und Kitas in freier Trägerschaft“ and the „Treffpunkt“ Community Church in Berlin-Französisch-Buchholz.

9.1 Kidsfest Kids-Church in evangelical daycares

Our relevant Kids program is also offered in evangelical daycares. We are convinced that our resilience and self-efficacy promoting programs as well as the prejudice aware education are not only important for school children but especially nowadays also for the little ones extremely important.

9.2 Pedagogical commission under consideration of the needs of children age 3 to 6

At the age of zero to six, according to childhood studies, children develop basic competences and the foundation-stone for their lifelong character is laid*. Within that life phase they learn how to feel empathy, discover their interests and skills and develop their participation ability and this all happens while they play. Therefore we confirmed our main pedagogic points and goals of the Kidsfest Program to the age-specific needs and interests of the children, in order to support them in the best way possible. We also accomplished that in consideration of the educational sectors of the Berlin Education Program (BBP).

The six educational sectors of the BBP find consideration in our pedagogical work like follows:

The educational sector health finds consideration in our program mainly through the various motion experiences we offer the children; with those we support a healthy physical perception and age-specific impulses to expand their motoric capacity. We do that practically through our Motion games and songs.

Within the educational sector social and cultural life we lay the main point during the games on accomplishing tasks together. Through that the children are able to experience success together and feel like a part of the group. In our themes we discuss the topics of that educational sector as well. The kids learn how to reflect themselves in their social behavior and how to strengthen their identity. Inclusion plays also a main role at our program, it can be found in the main character of our pedagogical work.

The educational sector communication: Languages, the culture of writing and Media find their place mainly in our story. But since we present our three rules and the four principles through symbols and words the children get a sense of early literacy.

With motion-songs, where the kids sing and dance along, we also take the educational sector art into account. In this way their creative interest gets nurtured and their musical understanding supported.

In the beginning of our program we loudly count down and show with our fingers the „Countdown“, afterwards we show the numbers of the three rules and the four principles and name each number with the children. Like that we focus on the educational sector math. But also the sector nature – environment – technology has its place in our program, because we often use nature’s principles for our age-specific themes, by explaining themes and topics through simple examples of nature and environment in the kid’s world. We also use simple physical experiments to underline and explain a main emphasis.

Now we'd like to show you how we practically revised our pedagogical goals and emphasis in consideration of the six educational sectors of the BBP, therefore you'll find an exemplary plan of our program in daycares following:

9.3 Revised exemplary plan

The thirty minute long program in daycares starts with a motion game or -song. That gives the kids a time to acclimate, have fun and feel welcome. It also helps to support different competences like motoric, body-awareness and team-spirit right from the start. Afterwards we repeat the rules for everyone. They are important in order to enable participation and to guarantee a well-organized program. After a short prayer in child oriented language, we get right to our next motion-song and the song of the four principles (which we believe and impart at Kidsfest - to be found at point 6 of this concept). The songs not only help the children to work on their motoric competences, but they also learn through them that they are an important part of the group and the positive contents of the songs help support their self-esteem.

Next the quiet time follows. Hereby, different from the normal program, the children stay one group with 4 chances. The chances are not illustrated by balloons but by four colored circles. When they at least get to keep one circle, they get to play another game. That helps to support their self-efficacy and team-spirit. Next the theme follows which contents of introduction and story.

At the following game all kids are practically involved again. During the game time it is very important to us that the kids get to develop their own competences like empathy and motoric, while they solve different tasks or wait on each other. We would like the children to realize

how important and precious every member of the group is despite their difference and we hope it helps to strengthen their solidarity. We want to impart that each child is precious and loved by God.

10. Quality Assurance

To assure the Quality, different aspects are involved. First of all we expect a perfect police background check of each employee, volunteer and intern. In a six-monthly cycle we offer trainings to our team which content classes about our basic principles and goals, time management, working in a team as well as the program itself. Furthermore we have a time to give each other a feedback within the team after every program. That time gives us the opportunity to bring in ideas, suggestions for improvement and constructive critic. Above that inner-team feedback we also document and work on current events and feedback from participants.

11. Childhood Protection according §8a SGB (Social Code) VIII

Within our pedagogical work with the children it happens at times that we encounter saliences. In those cases we cooperate with the youth welfare NGO „Freestyle“, in order to benefit from the expertise in that field of a qualified employee according to §8a des SGB VIII. That helps us protect the children and give our staff security and action guidelines. In the beginning every employee gets a short training on the topic childhood protection.

12. Public Relations

In the course of our public relations we'll publish this concept on our website www.hopeforone.org. We also cooperate with the press on request. During Kidsfest and certain events we create photo- and video-material for publishing purposes. We present our NGO Hope for One on several congresses with a booth. Through our facebook page www.facebook.com/kidsfestberlin we inform about current news and activities. Hope for One NGO signed the initiative „Transparente Zivilgesellschaft“(transparent civil community) and supports the fight against corruption effectively through publication of important information.

13. Closing Statement

This concept was updated most recently in September 2017. Furthermore it will be verified and adjusted in a yearly cycle. Currently we talk about new ideas – for example a Brunch for Mothers with an included group for toddlers as a new Offer.

14. References

Hope for One e.V.

Randowstr. 8, 13057 Berlin

Phone +49 30/55061971

Fax +49 30/55231572

E-Mail mail@hopeforone.org

Web www.hopeforone.org / www.kidsfest.de

Board: Christian Peters und Samuel Wagner

NGO-Nr. VR 35084 B

Tax-Nr. 27/670/63832

Bank Evangelische Bank; DE67 5206 0410 0003 9046 01; GENODEF1EK1

Contact Kidsfest Kids-Church

Contact Person: Tabea Peters

Phone +49 1788456593

E-Mail tabea.peters@kidsfest.de