

Information and rules for teamwork at UNCSO

At the Elifas Goaseb Primary School, where children are supported by the UNSCO-Team methods of education and instruction are very different to our western rules.

During the last decades education in Germany changed from a very strict parenting style, sometimes even conducted with violence, to a more human and not authoritarian style of education.

Nevertheless today we know that without a person who commands respect anarchy and disorientation may be the consequence. Each child needs an area where it can learn without fear and in which it can develop according to its character and intelligence.

The idea of Marianne Izaaks is that during 4 hours of attendance a day the children can both play without very strict rules and during study-time they have to work according to Marianne's rules and limits. It is imperative that all volunteers support these rules and limits. In case the children should not behave accordingly, there must be a consequence. The most important aspect is however not to increase existing fears of the children but to increase their confidence. This is an ambitious aim, which can only be achieved acting together continuously in accordance with the principles developed by Marianne and the team. A strong management does not exclude amicability, care and confidence. The very important „snuggle-time“ must therefore find its place during leisure time.

For the implementation of an education, which for the above reasons, is not always easy, there are wonderful, playful exercises, namely working with the parachute, which is available in the project. Every child has his place around the cloth and plays for the team and according to the Rules. For a successful game play are rules very important!

Parachute games were designed to promote the social behaviour and interaction in groups. It is trained motor skills and endurance, stimulated orientation ability, reaction, body coordination, posture and interaction skills and imagination.



Marianne Izaaks is both project manager and hostess. She makes the rules of the project and you can contact her in case of all questions concerning the children and the project. Marianne is – as no one else – familiar with this project since 2005 and she knows all ,secrets' how to contend with children and juveniles. In case there should be any different points of view between Marianne and you please try to find a mutual solution!

An extract from Ramona's personal report:

,The children I take care of in the centre are in level 2. But it is quite difficult to work with them. All together there are 7 children. Each child has its own talents and deficits. Taleni is very good at maths, but she isn't good at reading. Glenda cannot really read or calculate and Innocent loves to paint. The major problem is however that all need such a large amount of attention - each of them. If you don't pay attention to them, they do no work. Glenda e.g. is sitting on my knees and she works absolutely concentrated the whole time. But if I say to her that I have to look after Johannes in order to explain an exercise to him and I leave her alone on the chair, she doesn't understand it at all, she falls on the floor, screams and hits with her hands on the ground. Olivia always changes to an other table, when I don't answer her questions immediately. The children need so much attention. I think the reason for this is that they don't get so much attention at home like here in the centre from the volunteers. But this makes it very difficult to teach them and to work with them. None of the children ever tries to work on an exercise on their own. Well, they are in level 2 but nevertheless it is very difficult.

Domestic situation at the host family

Your host family is family Izaaks that cordially welcomes you. We really ask you to justify this hospitality and to accept the local morals and practice. With 6 volunteers the family Izaaks becomes a very large family. Therefore please try to make your contribution that everyone feels comfortable.