



# Freiland News

September 2020

Dear Parents,

These past weeks have been so intense and exciting for all of us! Aiza, Sophie and Yahia left us since they started going to school. Leonardo, Paridhi, Leo, Zoe and Elias are our preschoolers this year. Lorenz, Ellis, Ema, Linja, Livia and Kai-who is staying at home till the corona cases decrease- are our middle group.

Last but not least, our little ones are Ada, Niklas and Sophia. We are so happy to have two new children with us 😊 Niklas and Sophia are settling in and slowly getting to know our routines, rules and places we go to.

We have spent this month walking around the neighbourhood with them and went also to different playgrounds, where the children had the space to role play and explore.

We also started a project about feelings, since we want to encourage the children to identify and talk about their emotions, we want them to learn that it is fine to have different feelings and that depending on them their needs might change. And that they can always tell other children, teachers or families how they feel and what they need in order to get support.

We even had already some Birthday celebrations this month. Linja turned four and Ada turned three in the end of the Summer holidays, so we celebrated their birthdays at the Freiland house. We also celebrated Leo's Birthday (Ada's brother), who turned 5 during the lockdown. Last but not least, we celebrated Elias' Birthday, since he is now 5! Thank you for bringing those yummy treats



As you all have noticed, Patrick is being a big support and part of the team these past weeks. The children are really happy to have him and he is a great help.

## What have we been up to?

We are the Freiland group, and this means that we want to explore the surroundings) with the children. Since we are not using public transport, we are

walking everywhere, so it is important for us that the children get enough time to walk to different places or playgrounds in the neighborhood and we stop when possible to observe what's going on around: workmen fixing or cleaning some windows (this kept us busy one morning), some traffic signs, some squirrels or birds on a tree, a spider web in a building, the scooters in front of a school... we even saw a man on a crane one morning and he was taking photos! The children wanted to know what he was doing so they asked his friend, who told us that they were architects, taking photos of a house that is going to be restored... it is so interesting how many things we can learn if we are curious and open 😊

### **Highlights:**

#### **Free Play at the Freiland House**

The most important place is our Freiland House, where we spend part of our day. Depending on the moment of the day, the children can free play or do quiet time outside or inside. Outside they generally like to play with shovels and bowls, to dig and look for worms, to play football, to “cook”, etc. During quiet time they usually like to colour (we offer colouring pictures or mandalas, play with playdough, play some board games or do puzzles).

#### **Physical Development and Motor skills: Hypo Park**

The Hypo Park is the most favorite playground of the children. Even though we go there quite often, there is always something new to explore or to do. This month, we found and collected many chestnuts. We also went to the new skateboard area, where the children tested their gross motor skills by running up and down the slopes. A couple of times, there were older children playing with their scooters and we observed how fast and high they could jump.

#### **Tunnelrutsche Playground and Piratenspielplatz**

These two playgrounds are the most visited ones after the Hypo Park. Climbing, sliding, making cakes, swinging and climbing on trees are some of the favourite things that children like to do here. Role playing is an important part too. Most children already know the way there and tell the teachers where to go.

#### **Games**

This month, we have been playing different team games or games in order to make the children connect with each other or feel part of a team. One of the

games was “Foxes and rabbits”, in which the foxes have to catch the rabbits and the rabbits can save each other.

Another game was a game in which there were two teams and they had to transport as a team, as many chestnuts as possible from one place to another one. Each child only being able to carry one chestnut at a time 😊 This was funny.

We also got some new games: some traffic cones, which we used one morning to create a parkour, in which they had to jump and run around them.

We also got boccia, which is great for the hand eye coordination, and for practising with how much strength you should throw a ball in order to achieve a goal. There is a small ball and different big balls. The children have to try to throw their big ball as closest as possible to the smallest. It was a lot of fun!

## **Sports Room**

Most of the children got the chance to try new equipment in the Turnzimmer (at the Kindergarten) in the afternoons. Some of them were the slide, the trampoline or the swing. Incredibly enough, there was still enough energy in their bodies after such a long day!

## **Exploring nature and our neighbourhood: Johannisplatz**

We walked to this square one morning, and saw the big church, two playgrounds, a square with some colourful flowers (we smelled them), and the tram stop of the tram (15 or 25) which we will take to go to the forest. We then went to the playground, which has got many hills where the children ran up and down. They loved the “turning wheel” and they also were very excited to discover that the missing swing was finally fixed and now there are three swings and not two.

## **The cemetery at the Kirchenstr.**

Since this is such a big area in our neighbourhood, very visited place by many squirrels and birds, we went for a stroll one morning through the cemetery. Since death is a natural part of life, which we often observe with worms or snails, we think it is a place we shouldn't avoid. The children love the big fountain where people can fill watering pots in order to water the flowers. We also discovered something new: a vending machine where you can buy candles. We then saw that some graves had candles, and some were still on. There was some mud on the ground, so we used the opportunity to look for some tracks.

## **The Preysingstraße**

This is a very beautiful street in Haidhausen. We went for a walk there and observed what things had changed since the last time. We observed some constructions sites and noticed how a part of a street had been covered with

fresh tar, which was hot and we could feel. We looked at different houses, trees (an apple tree!) and plants among others.

### **Englischer Garten**

Walking to the Englischer Garten was our longest walk this month. We passed by the hospital, we got to see some ambulances... and down we went to a big flat area next to the chestnut tree. The children were very excited of coming here again and wanted to go to so many places. We stayed near the Chestnut tree and played a team game in which they had to transport chestnuts from one place to another one.

### **Language and Interaction: Role Play**

Role play is very important for children's development. It happens during free play. Through it, children make sense of their world, acting out experiences, ideas or stories. For role play, imagination and language play an important role.

For example, at the Tunnelrutsche there is a big green area, where the children role play so many different things: cooking, celebrating a birthday party, pretending to have a horse, fighting the enemy, etc.

At the pirate playground, there's a pirate boat in it (therefore its name) Some of them pretended to be real pirates one morning! The boat has a little hanging basket which you can lift pulling a chain. Filling this basket with chestnuts, sand or stones is one of the favourite things of the children.

### **Feeling Project**

Each week we have been talking about different feelings during morning circle. We have also been learning different songs about feelings and we even got to read a couple of books on the topic. We started talking about happiness and the children shared stories of moments in which they were happy. They drew about them and we even played a pantomime game in which we had to act something out which we enjoy doing. We took funny face photos and we even had a happy party with lots of dancing and face painting 😊

We then talked a bit about being surprised, having a birthday party or getting presents were a very exciting moment for all of us, we agreed. We drew about surprising moments and also took funny photos.

We are currently talking about sadness and we will move on to talking about anger and then do different activities in which we combine different feelings.

## **Birthdays:**

Happy 3rd birthday Ada!

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Linja!

Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Leo!

Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Elias!

## **Important dates to remember:**

- Our next “show and tell” will be: on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Elternabend: On the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October we will celebrate a Halloween party.

**We also want to remind you, that every child should have some spare clothes in their backpacks (in a waterproof bag).**

**We hope you have enjoyed reading about our month!**

**Your Freiland Team Melanie, Zaya and Maria**