

Hamburg, 10/11/2020

Dear parents,

Since spring, the topic of "Corona" and the measures ordered by the authorities in this regard have been a constant companion to us all. The regular operation of the day care centre was discontinued in mid-March and then gradually started up again by the beginning of August. This period was associated with a great deal of strain of various kinds for you as families. For us as the responsible body and especially for our teachers on site, there were also many challenges to overcome.

We all had a little breather over the summer. Now the number of positive tests is rising again and with it the restrictions in public and private life. Schools and day care centres were explicitly excluded from the current closure, thus emphasising their importance for the children's lives, for their educational biography and for a healthy upbringing, besides the great importance of these institutions for the compatibility of work and family life. The objective of maintaining the regular operation of the day care centres was also formulated for Hamburg. First of all, this is good news for all families.

In the meantime, various studies have shown that children, especially the youngest ones, are neither drivers of the infection nor do they become seriously ill of it. The chains of infection run through adults, which means that we adults are required to follow the familiar hygiene measures with self-discipline in order to contain the infection.

Against this background, we feel strengthened in our claim to be a safe place for the children entrusted to us with our day care centres, even in these times. A place where they can play and learn without fear, with childlike curiosity and joy in their familiar social relationships. This is all the more important in times of great public and perhaps also private insecurity.

We are very aware that we are in a tense relationship. The greatest possible fear-free, child-oriented educational everyday life in the day care centres, the responsible fulfilment of hygiene requirements and at the same time the challenge of the sometimes tense staff situation against the background of the cold season and the pandemic mean that it may not always be possible for us to maintain the usual level of care. This can include changes in care structures, restrictions on opening hours and the temporary reduction of care times as well as restrictions in the daily pedagogical routine. We kindly ask for your understanding in this regard.

We would like to thank our employees for their professional attitude and continued commitment during these special months, and we would also like to thank you as parents for continuing to place your children in our care with great confidence every day.

We send you our warmest greetings



Ursula Smischliaew and Jörg Brettschneider
Managing Directors