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## We appreciate every donation given to us to support

HELLEUM education activities and research

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Kinderforscherzentrums HELLEUM e.V.

# **KINDERFORSCHERZENTRUM** HELLEUM



Learning and research center for children HELLEUM in Berlin's Marzahn-Hellersdorf neighbourhood

A joint project between Berlin District Office of Marzahn-Hellersdorf (Bezirksamt Marzahn-Hellersdorf) Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin's Senate Department for Education







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## The Concept

HELLEUM is an innovative learning and research center for children - Kinderforscherzentrum - located in Berlin's Marzahn-Hellersdorf neighbourhood. The Kinderforscherzentrum is based on the joint concept of three educational approaches:

- »Lernwerkstatt«
- Science environmental education
- Education for sustainable development

HELLEUM enables children at an early age primarily from the Marzahn-Hellersdorf neighbourhood to develop intrigue into the realms of science and technology, by way of inquiry-based and explorative - hands-on - learning. Furthermore HELLEUM networks lokal and regional education institutions for early childhood science education. It hosts a large variety of in-service training programs, science days, conferences and workshops.

## The Network

The idea for HELLEUM was developed under the Quartiermanagement Hellersdorfer Promenade education initiative. It stays in close contact with different local education institutions in the neighbourhood.

The owner of the HELEUM building is Berlin District Office of Marzahn-Hellersdorf. The steering committee, represented by the Berlin District Office of Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences and Berlin's Senate Department for Education, supervise the center. Furthermore HELLEUM receives project-related financial support from different foundations and local companies. At HELLEUM, we partner with various local, regional and international education and research institutions in order to carry out our education and research philosophies which promote lifelong learning concepts, especially in reference to inquiry-based education.

The Method

### Explorative inquiry-based learning

Here at HELLEUM we believe that explorative inquiry-based learning is imperative when speaking to early childhood science education and pedagogy. Children are encouraged to discover their own learning, develop their own questions and make their own experience in science via captivating workstations. They touch, experiment, explore everything around them. Our team, made up of teachers, pre-educators, scientists and students guide and facilitate learning, rather than instruct it. This means, children are encouraged to explore new ways of understanding through independent experiences.

## The I ernwerkstatt

Lernwerkstatt considers all factors - space, pedagogical theory, methodologies, learning philosophies, etc. - that are needed to give the workshop its ethos. The design of the space allows for easy adaptation of the learning environment depending on the topic being explored and for dynamic ideas to be brought to life. It hosts a wide range of inspiring materials and high-guality laboratory equipment. Children thrive with the abundance of technologies. innovations, and materials that are made available to them. The Lernwerkstatt fulfill three aspects of modern padagogy:

- participation
- → appreciation
- individualization of learning processes



## The Programmes

The target groups are primary school pupils (grade level 1 to 6) and preschool children.

#### Aktivities for children

- workshops for pre- and primary school
- open events for children and families
- holiday programmes for children (after-school support service)
- working groups for primary school
- mobile offers for pre- and primary school

#### Workshop topics



#### Programme for pedagogues and students

- In- and pre-service training courses
- Network consulting and expertise
- Conferences and workshops