

Spielgruppe Information A to Z

In our Spielgruppe A to Z you can find the most important information regarding Spielgruppe day to day and organisation. Please read it through and let us know if you have any questions.

A

Abholen/Bringen: Drop-off and Pick-up

- After a settling in period we ask that all parents say goodbye to their children by the entrance or in the cloakroom/kitchen area.
- It is important to us that the children learn to put their shoes, coats, etc. on and off by themselves. This is valuable preparation for Kindergarten.
- We ask all parents to wait outside when collecting children, until we open the door or come outside with the children (We may also already be outside on the playground before parents arrive).
- Please inform us if your child will be brought or collected by somebody other than the parents.

Absenzen: Absence

In the case of illness, or absence for other reasons please inform us as soon as possible via E-Mail, SMS or WhatsApp.

Altersheim Mütschi: Mütschi Home for the Elderly

- Since 2016 we regularly make visits to a group of residents at Mütschi with the children. We sometimes bake with them, listen to a story together, exercise, or simply sing songs and eat our *Znüni*.
- On average we make around 8 visits to Mütschi per year, rotating between the Friday, Wednesday and Thursday groups.

Auffangszeit: Arrival time

The arrival time for the Spielgruppe is from 8.25 to 8.40. At 8:45 we begin our morning with circle time. It is valuable for the children to be present and ready to start with us for this morning ritual.

B

Bewegung: Movement/ Exercise

Please see: **Purzelbaum**

D

Deutschkurs: German Course

We offer a German course for none-native speakers on Mondays during the Spielgruppe morning. This is taught by an external teacher from the organisation *Wunderfitz und Redeblitz* and is partially subsidised by the Gemeinde of Walchwil. It is of great importance to us that we can assist with the integration of children with a first language other than German and ease their start in Kindergarten. The course has a maximum of 6 places.

E

Ehrenamtliche Helferinnen: Volunteer Helpers

Since 2017 we are supported at the Spielgruppe by two seniors, Greta and Margrit. They support us on a weekly basis with the *Mittagstisch* and now and then with other activities.

It is a wonderful gift for our team and for the children, especially for those who live further away from their grandparents.

Eltern-Infoabend

We usually hold a parents' information evening and the beginning of a new Spielgruppe year. The date will be communicated at the appropriate time.

F

Ferien und Spielgruppenfreie Tage: Holidays and other «days off»

At the start of each Semester we will distribute a list of all important dates including holidays and bank holidays.

Fotos: Photos

During the Spielgruppe morning we will occasionally take photos of the children. These will be shared via private Links (1 per group) at the end of the Spielgruppe year.

Without the understanding of the parents we will not post any photos on our homepage. (Consent option included in Spielgruppe registration form)

G

Geburtstage: Birthdays

It almost goes without saying that we like to celebrate the children's birthdays with them at the Spielgruppe. We will ask that parents contribute something for the birthday Znüni. This can be a cake, but a fruit platter or something savoury also proves very popular with the children, especially when we happen to have more than one birthday in the same week.

H

Hausschuhe: Slippers

The children should bring a pair of closed slippers or slip-proof socks/plimsoles. These can be kept in their personal slipper bag at the Spielgruppe

K

Kleidung: Clothing

- Children should come to Spielgruppe in weather-appropriate clothing which is allowed to get dirty.
- It is important that children wear clothes which allow them to move freely.
- Shoes should have velcro fastenings or similar so that children can put them on and take them off by themselves. (No lace-ups please)

Krankheit: Illness

- Sick children should of course be kept at home. A light cold is usually okay but if a child is suffering heavily from multiple symptoms or if they have a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea or are suffering from a highly infectious illness they should not be visiting the Spielgruppe.
- If a child cannot come to Spielgruppe we request a short notification via SMS/WhatsApp. Please be sure to inform the correct teacher for that day!
- If a child is taken ill during the Spielgruppe morning the parents will be informed. In this case we will ask that the child is collected as soon as possible.

L

Läusealarm: Head lice

- Although we have so far never had to deal with headlice in the Spielgruppe, it does arise from time to time in the local school.

- Should a case of head lice arise in the village school or kindergarten we will take the preventative measure of spraying the children's neck (hairline) with the anti-lice spray. (When this is not wished please inform us).
- Children who have a case of head lice should only return to Spielgruppe when they are completely free of lice and nits.
- To prevent catching head lice it is advisable to wash hair from time to time with a preventative shampoo, especially after school holidays. (e.g. Weidenrinden Shampoo from Rausch)

Lichterumzug: *Lantern Parade*

The Spielgruppe takes part in the annual Lantern Parade organised by the school in November. More detailed information is given at the time.

M

Mittagstisch: *Lunch at the Spielgruppe*

We offer lunch at the Spielgruppe on Mondays and Tuesdays for Spielgruppe and Kindergarten/school children. Further information and registration forms are available on our website. (www.spielgruppe-schmetterling.ch)

Morgenkreis: *Circle Time*

We begin our Spielgruppe morning punctually at 8:45 with our morning circle. This is an important ritual in which we greet each child, Spielgruppe leaders and our animal puppets. We sing songs and finger rhymes, tell stories and listen to what the children have to say.

P

Parkplätze: *Parking*

We politely request that parents only park on the **2 labelled Schmetterling parking spaces** or on the **4 visitor (Besucher) parking spaces**. Please do NOT park in front of the garages or on any of the numbered parking spaces.

Purzelbaum

Since September 2017 we are proud to call ourselves a Purzelbaum Spielgruppe. Purzelbaum stands for versatile and varied movement/exercise and healthy nourishment for children.

Currently two of the Spielgruppe leaders have completed the Purzelbaum Training. We regularly participate in Purzelbaum workshops and courses and place a lot of value on varied movement and healthy balanced eating in the Spielgruppe.

R

Regenwetter: *Wet Weather*

Sometimes we also like to take the children outside to play on a rainy day. We therefore ask that children come with waterproof trousers, a rain coat and wellington boots on these days. It is also possible to keep a pair of rain trousers in the child's slipper bag at the Spielgruppe.

Umbrellas are not suitable for the Spielgruppe and should please be left at home.

S

Spielgruppenreisli: *Playgroup Outing*

The year wouldn't be complete without our Spielgruppe outing in May or June. We usually walk with the children to the Ausseregg Playground where we have plenty of time to play. We make a fire, grill sausages for lunch and have plenty of fun!

Spielen: *Play*

"Play" is central at Spielgruppe Schmetterling. It is through extensive and varied play that young children explore and learn about the world around them.

T

Turnen: *Spielgruppe «Gym» session*

- Depending on the group we begin our time in the gym hall on Tuesdays in the 1st to 3rd week after the summer holidays.
- The children should come in comfortable clothes and sports shoes or soft plimsoles. The changing room at the gym hall is open from 8:25 and shoes, rucksacks and jackets can be left in there.
- The children should have a **bottle of water** with them which they can bring into the gym hall.
- We aim to provide the children with a wide range of possibilities for exercise and movement and to offer activities which are not possible in the Spielgruppe. e.g. Balancing, Climbing, Coordination-games, swinging, etc.
- We are in the gym hall from 8:30 until around 9:30. After this we walk back to the Spielgruppe together to eat our «Znüni». The children are **collected at the Spielgruppe at 11:30**, apart from those children who stay for lunch.

V

Verein: Non-Profit Association

Spielgruppe Schmetterling is organised through a non-profit association which was founded in 2014 by Kristin Hürlimann and Daisy Wilde.

It consists of a Committee of at least 5 members and is dependent on a great deal of voluntary work from the playgroup leaders and other association members, in addition to the paid work of the playgroup leaders.

W

Wasserflasche: Water Bottle

We ask that all children have a well-sealed drinking bottle in their rucksack filled with water. Please do not give the children sweetened or sugary drinks to take to the Spielgruppe.

Windelkinder: Nappies / Diapers

- Children who are not yet able to use the toilet independently or to communicate on time when they need to go, should wear nappies to Spielgruppe. In this case the children should have 1 or 2 spare nappies and some wet wipes in their rucksack. It is also possible to leave a small bag of nappies and wipes in the Spielgruppe for your child. We have spare clothes at the Spielgruppe in case of an accident.
- Children should only come without nappies when they are fully toilet trained.

Z

Zahnpflege: Dental care

Children who stay for lunch at the Spielgruppe should bring a labelled toothbrush and tube of toothpaste on their first day. We help the children to brush their teeth after lunch.

„Gesundes„ Znüni: «Healthy» Snacks

- We lay a lot of value on a healthy morning snack at the Spielgruppe.
- We ask parents **not** to give their children any sweetened snacks or sweet drinks for Spielgruppe. If you are unsure, we have a flyer available with plenty of ideas for healthy snacks which you can pick up at the Spielgruppe.
- Any snacks which are considered unsuitable for the Spielgruppe will usually be left unopened in the child's rucksack to take home. We will

of course make sure that a child in this case is given something else to eat for a snack at the Spielgruppe.

- It is usually ideal to pack a variety of different things for your child, in small quantities.
- During the 1st Semester we usually have a two-week period called “Znüni-Wochen”, during which time we ask that the children don’t bring their regular snacks with them. Instead we prepare varied snacks each day with the children. The aim is to encourage them to try new things and allow them to experience preparing and tasting different foods.