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German as a Second Language - GSL

(Deutsch als Zweitsprache - DAZ)

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Dear Kibili Parents,



The Kindergarten is offering a program for our German second language learners again this year. Purpose of the “GSL” program is to assist non-native German speaking children with their German language skills.

Each week, students recommended by their teachers, have the opportunity to participate in a small group or an individualized learning setting to practice their language skills. Resources used are learning materials from their classrooms for various hands-on activities. Materials could be memory games, listening games, books and other things familiar to the children. Also used are materials from a German program called “Das Bin Ich” (Finkenverlag, www.finken.de), which serves as resource for language development in early childhood education programs, and was developed to increase concrete and theoretical awareness for teachers working with second language learners.

During group time, children experience language through all their senses, sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. In Germany this concept is called “Sprachbad” (which stands for language immersion). On different occasions, teachers utilize a hand puppet named Finki, a mischievous black bird, which visits to tell about things that happened to it during the week. Interacting with the puppet, children work on vocabulary, sentence building and communication. The small group setting is very well suited for playing games, drawing pictures and working on fine motor activities, while being immersed in the German language without any distractions. Another important segment is story-telling time, during which the children are given the opportunity to engage in conversations about things they have experienced and just learned. Children who need to work on grammatical skills are given the opportunity to do so in a smaller environment. Occasionally native German speaking classmates are invited to help the non-native speakers, and to act as language role models.

Sincerely,

Marina Sam

KIBILI

