

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.

Ablösung: Settling-in (staying happily without parent)

Each child has their own personality and therefore each one responds differently to separation from their parents. Some children happily say goodbye after a few minutes, whereas others need a little more time, some need a lot of time.

We ask parents to read our information sheet "Eingewöhnung und Ablösung". It contains many helpful tips as well as our settling-in plan, so that each settling-in can go as smoothly as possible.

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. Please inform the correct playgroup leader!

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*.

The visits alternate between the Wednesday and Friday groups and are planned for the year ahead to include such activities as bread-bunny baking for Easter, planting seeds and plants on spring and summer, or group sport

and games. More detailed information about the project can be found in a booklet on display at the Spielgruppe.

The way the eyes of the residents light up when they interact with the children, and the joy and curiosity in the children's faces never ceases to delight us!

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.

For the gym session on Tuesday mornings we ask all parents to bring their children into the gym hall between 8:20 and 8:30 with the gym shoes and water bottle so that we can start at 8:30.

B

Bewegung: Movement/ Exercise

Please see: **Purzelbaum**

D

Deutschkurs: German Course

We offer a German course for non-native speakers on Mondays during the Spielgruppe morning. This is taught by an external teacher from the organisation *Wunderfitz und Redeblyt* and is subsidised up to 50% 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 senior volunteer Greta. She supports 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/ -morgen

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

F

Fasnachtsumzug

The Spielgruppe has taken part twice before in the Fasnacht (carnival) parade in Walchwil. We hope to take part again at the next parade (Sunday 19th February) and will be delighted if lots of Spielgruppe families take part. We also welcome any parents who would like to help us with costumes and other preparations!

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. The exception to this is in the Friday forest playgroup where we celebrate as a group once in each season and will prepare something special on the fire to enjoy with the children.

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/Lichterstationen Lantern parade/display

The Spielgruppe takes part in the annual Lantern Parade/Display organised by the school in November. It is well worth an evening outing as a family to see all the lanterns produced by the Spielgruppe, Kindergarten and school children. More detailed information is given at the time.

M

Mittagstisch: Lunch at the Spielgruppe

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

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.

S

Schupperwochen

During the year we hold visiting mornings to provide an opportunity for interested parents to visit the Spielgruppe with their children. Current Spielgruppe children are of course welcome to arrange a visit on other days as well. We ask all interested parties to let us know when they would like to visit.

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.

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 lots of fun!

Spielzeugfreie Spielgruppe: *Toy-free Playgroup*

After the Christmas holidays we say goodbye to most of our conventional toys. For around 4 weeks the children enjoy playing with a range “worthless” materials such as cardboard boxes and tubes, and versatile objects such as ropes and cloths.

We have been enjoying this special period of time after Christmas for several years now and have enjoyed some wonderful times with the children. Through free play with the various materials the children develop their creativity and expand their imaginations.

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 **8:15** 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.

Vorlesetag

The Schweizer Vorlesetag (Swiss reading aloud day) from the organization SIKJM took place for the first time in May 2018. That year we enjoyed reading stories to lots of children and their parents at the Spielgruppe. During the pandemic we read stories over our YouTube channel and even sang! In 2023 we will be telling a story at our forest playgroup spot on Mettlenweg and are hoping for lots of curious listeners.

W

Waldeulen Walchwil

In 2020 we established our forest spot on Mettlenweg together with the local forester. The Forest playgroup "Waldeulen" meets every Friday to spend the morning in the forest close to nature in (almost) all weathers. In the winter we will often visit the Walchwilerberg to spend time in the snow.

We also offer lunch and care until 13:30 on Fridays. Depending on the weather we either cook lunch and eat in the forest or return to the playgroup for lunch.

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.