

Hey, my name is İrem. I was a volunteer at "Kindergruppe Hockegasse" during the period of September 2022 to June 2023. Our children's group consisted of 14 children aged 3 to 6, along with 3 trained teachers. Our daily activities were playing games, singing, doing crafts, providing preschool education, and engaging in music. Regardless of the weather conditions, we spent nearly 2 hours outside each day, and on Fridays, we organized activities to explore nature in the forest.



My responsibilities included assisting children in preparing before going outside, ensuring they change clothes and attend to their bathroom needs upon returning, offering help with lunch preparation, tidying up the kitchen after meals, spending time playing with them after naptime, reading books, doing art activities such as painting, and collaborating with teachers to plan craft activities based on the monthly theme.



In the beginning, communicating with the children was a bit challenging, and during this period, I frequently sought help from the teachers. As I started hearing and learning German, my ability to communicate at a basic level became easier. At times, they wouldn't listen to me or the teachers, and that's when I would use Turkish, English, and Russian words to capture their attention. They were also enthusiastic and interested as they were learning new things.



Throughout my time with the children, I experienced significant personal development. I had the opportunity to develop valuable qualities like patience and flexibility. Despite the initial communication challenges, I gradually developed a way to communicate that was suitable for the children's language abilities. This experience enhanced my problem-solving skills, like finding creative ways to engage the children's attention or resolving minor disagreements during playtime. Additionally, it greatly improved my teamwork abilities. Collaborating with other volunteers and teachers taught me how to create an effective learning environment. Contributing to the children's development and ensuring they grow up in a safe and nurturing environment brought me immense satisfaction during this journey.





In addition to Grenzenlos' monthly Jour-fixe meetings, my volunteer friends and I organized several enjoyable activities during my project time. These activities helped strengthen our personal relationships and further enriched our volunteering experience. We explored our surroundings and enjoyed scenic views through nature walks. Gathering for picnics provided us with pleasant moments outdoors. Moreover, participating in various workshops allowed us to acquire new skills and support each other. We had fun-filled moments with movie nights and game activities. All of these activities contributed to building a strong bond with my volunteer friends and enhancing this experience even further.

I am very happy to have had the volunteer experience in this beautiful country, collaborating with a wonderful organization and spending time with dear volunteer friends and team members.



Thank you to everyone who was part of my ESC journey. I hope to meet you again some day. :)