



**TOYS FOR CHILDREN'S
REHABILITATION**

16. International Symposium, Workshop and Exhibition
Oberbergischer Kreis - Germany - 16.- 30. Mai 2010

FÖRDERN DURCH SPIELMITTEL e.V.
Immanuelkirchstr.24 D-10405 Berlin.

FÖRDERN DURCH
SPIELMITTEL -
SPIELZEUG FÜR
BEHINDERTE KINDER e.V.

Immanuelkirchstraße 24
D - 10405 Berlin
Tel: +49-30-442 92 93
Fax: +49-30-443 59 214
info@spielmittel.de
www.spielmittel.de

Call for Applications for the

16. International UNESCO-Creativity Workshop „Toys for Children's Rehabilitation“ Innovative Toys for People with Special Needs

The 16th Interdisciplinary UNESCO Creativity Workshop in Germany will take place at Wiehl/Oberbergischer Kreis (Nordrhein-Westfalen), Germany, from **May 16-30, 2010**. The aim is to develop new toys for children and adults with special needs that increase the joy of playing and support motoric, sensoric and communicative skills.

Togetherness – Integrative:

For two weeks, participants will be in close contact with people with disabilities, learning directly and practically from their skills and needs, and in addition becoming inspired by this process so as to view the users as equal partners in future development processes. Working together with children and adults, mutual inspiration should lead to the development of completely new toys that encourage play and yet fulfil therapeutic goals.

Togetherness – Interdisciplinary:

The participants will come from different professional backgrounds. Designers, therapists, toy experts, teachers working with disabled children, carers, architects, people with special needs and students are invited to apply to participate in the 16th UNESCO-Creativity Workshop. Through this interdisciplinary composition the participants will also learn from each other and different professional approaches.

Togetherness – Intercultural:

The participants will come from different countries and continents. Their encounter will offer different views on function and production of toys, on handicaps and special needs, on integration and participation. Living and working together offers the possibility of exchanging thoughts and including ideas from different cultural backgrounds into the development of toys.



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Project background

According to WHO estimates there are 330 million people with disabilities around the world, half of them children. International organizations, including UNESCO, the UN agency for Education, Science and Culture, have made it a priority to improve the situation of these children and adults and their social context.

Play is crucial for all children, helping them to develop skills and to learn patterns of behaviour. Also for adults with special needs, materials for play and activity are an important aspect of everyday accomplishment, affirmation and interaction with other people. The non-profit organisation „Toys for Children’s Rehabilitation” (*Fördern durch Spielmittel - Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V.*) promotes this process by developing new ideas for suitable toys within the framework of the Creativity Workshops. Since being founded in 1991 “Toys for Children’s Rehabilitation” has led or coordinated a total of 15 Interdisciplinary Creativity Workshops in Germany and abroad, with each Workshop resulting in the development of many new toys or toy ideas.

We are convinced that new toys are best developed in conjunction with their future users – with the children who are going to play with them - since these are the real experts on toys. This user-oriented means of product development has often led to surprising toy ideas.

Our experience has shown that innovative solutions are found best when they have to meet the most exacting challenges. Toys for children and adults with special needs for their mental and/or physical development have to meet high demands. They have to ‘really work’ – otherwise the children cannot benefit from them. Therefore we hold the Creativity Workshops in facilities specifically for people with special needs to allow for an intense contact between developers and users during the design process.

Directly after the Creativity Workshop has come to a close, an interdisciplinary group chooses the most interesting toys. Emphasis is put on their therapeutic or paedagogic value and innovative character. These toys are then modified and copied and tested for three months by people with special needs. The organisers arrange for further development of the toys, with some of them appearing in published form as construction plans, while others are even further refined to be transferred into batch production, where possible in the sheltered workshops.

Over the years a broad national and international network of partners has been established - both of institutions and individuals - who are active on behalf of people with special needs. Today, the Berlin-based association “Fördern durch Spielmittel - Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V.” has members in a total of 27 different countries. The association receives support for its work in this area from the national UNESCO Commission; “Fördern durch Spielmittel - Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V.” is also a partner in the UNESCO programme “Education for Children in Need”.

The 16th UNESCO-Creativity Workshop will be held in the region Oberbergischer Kreis. Individuals and political institutions in that region support the goal and the organization of the workshop, and local private sponsors finance it. The symposium, the accommodation of the participants in facilities for people with special needs and the final presentation of the results will take place in local institutions.

The Oberbergischer Kreis region with its capital Gummersbach is located in Nordrhein-Westfalen, east of Cologne. It has 286.000 inhabitants and is characterized by medium-sized industries and businesses. The many hills and lakes make it a favourite place for recreation; many sanatoriums and clinics for rehabilitation are based here. An extraordinarily good infrastructure with numerous schools, sheltered workshops, housing projects, ambulant and stationary institutions offers manifold support to people with special needs.

Dr. Helmut Tautz
Board

„Foerdern durch Spielmittel – Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V.“

Siegfried Zoels
Managing Director

Programme

Date:

May 16-30, 2010

Place:

Germany, Oberbergischer Kreis, Wiehl, near Cologne

Aims:

During the Workshop, participants will develop innovative toy ideas and produce models. At the end of the Workshop phase, the organisers will be responsible for the process of further development for the toys selected. Participants consent to the organisers being able to use their work (including models and drawings) within the terms of the agreement (see Appendix) for non-profit activities. The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will remain with the designer.

The programme consists of three parts: the Symposium, the Workshop and an Exhibition of the Toys developed during the workshop phase.

Agenda:

May 16, 2010

Arrival of the participants

May 17-18, 2010

Symposium

Specialists from different countries will be presenting their experience from such different areas as toys and design solutions, integration and therapy for people with disabilities. Designers, toy developers, artists, therapists and other specialists will report about their work. The symposium is also designed to provide ideas and inputs for the subsequent design work.

May 19-27, 2010

Workshop

The participants reside in facilities for children and adults for special needs. On that basis they will develop their project(s) – a toy for a concrete person or a certain therapeutical purpose. During the course of the workshop, the participants will be expected to design and make prototypes of new toys. Equipment and materials will be available for making prototypes in different materials.

The design work itself is given special momentum by the close contact to the future users. The key aspect is here not their limitations but their possibilities: What can the people with special needs do? What do they enjoy? And how can these be transformed into a toy?

One further important aspect of the Creativity Workshop is the international and interdisciplinary exchange of experience it enables between the participants. Experienced tutors are also present to give advice and help where needed.

May 28, 2010

Presentation of the Work Results

The Exhibition of Toys following the Workshop is open to the public and allows the designers to present and explain their toys. The guests invited to the exhibition include our partners and representatives of various institutions, together with the children, their parents, teachers and carers.

Participants:

This is a worldwide call for applications. Twenty participants will be chosen to participate in the Creativity Workshop. Applicants could be, for example, designers, engineers, architects, toy developers, teachers and carers, therapists, psychologists, or child development specialists. Students within these areas can also apply.

Working languages:

English and German

Costs:

There will be no workshop fee. We will provide all working materials necessary. We will also provide food and accommodation during the period of the workshop. Travel costs have to be borne by the participants; those participants from developing countries or Eastern Europe are eligible to apply for a contribution to their travel expenses.

Application Deadline:

December 31, 2009

The participants accepted for the workshop will receive further detailed information by February 2010.

Application Materials:

- Application Form and Supplements (Appendix)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Declaration of Agreement (Appendix)

Direct to:

„Fördern durch Spielmittel – Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V.“
Immanuelkirchstr. 24
D-10405 Berlin
unesco@spielmittel.de
Fax: +49-30-44359214



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Application Form

Family Name:

First Name:

Date of Birth:

Gender: female/male

Profession:

Current occupation:

Address (private):

Tel.(private):

Fax (private):

Tel.(business):

Fax (business):

Email:

Languages:

Diet (for example vegetarian/non-vegetarian, no pork):



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1.) Please summarize your experience in the field of design, toys and rehabilitation.

2.) Please list any projects and designs that you have developed and which may relate to the Workshop and include photos or drawings (via email either as a jpg-file or in PowerPoint), a brief description of your design work and a list of materials used:

3.) What do you personally expect from a Workshop like this?

Date:

Signature:

The Selection Committee will treat all applications and accompanying material in strict confidentiality. Any materials submitted to the organizers will be returned to the sender at the end of the application process.



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Agreement Declaration

Between

1.) Your name:
and

2.) Fördern durch Spielmittel – Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V. Berlin,
Immanuelkirchstraße 24, 10405 Berlin, Germany

The author of the new developments and prototypes produced during the 16th Interdisciplinary UNESCO Creativity Workshop in Oberbergischer Kreis, Germany, from May 16 to 30, 2010, authorizes "Fördern durch Spielmittel - Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e.V." to reproduce these prototypes and use them in non-profit programmes and activities.

The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the developments and prototypes will remain with the author.

I. "Fördern durch Spielmittel e.V." are to be granted individual rights for non-commercial use as follows:

– To reproduce selected new developments and prototypes and use them within activities as a part of the training or education of people with special needs

– Make the prototypes and new developments known and disseminate them via publications, exhibitions, videos, Internet, and other media

– To prepare, publish and distribute the new developments and their construction plans for parents, teachers and carers.

"Fördern durch Spielmittel e.V." undertake to:

– Protect the rights of the authors and represent their interests vis-à-vis third parties

– Test prototypes of the chosen toys and inform the authors of the test results.

II. Procedure in the event of commercial use:

Should the new developments or prototypes produced during the 16th Interdisciplinary UNESCO Creativity Workshop in Germany be considered for commercial use, the details of such use will then be negotiated individually between the Author and the Organizer.

Date:

Date:

Managing Director

Applicant

Foerdern durch Spielmittel –
Spielzeug für behinderte Kinder e. V.
Immanuelkirchstraße 24
10405 Berlin/Germany

Address:



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