

## PEDAGOGICAL INPUT

# *for the adventure of family life*



## 38\_Relationships – the key to learning

A trusting relationship between teachers and students is the basis for learning to happen. Lovers are interested in everything their partner does, even if they have never heard of or been interested in these things. It's the same with children: If they like the teacher and feel accepted, safe and secure, then they can be enthusiastic about anything taught to them.

### Look at the skills

As a teacher, it is important to focus on what the child can already do, what its dreams, skills and preferences are. You can build on these skills. For example, if a child is very active and fast, constantly moving, cannot sit still... Here it is pointless and counter-productive to say: "Stop squirming. You are disturbing others." It's about saying what the child can already do: "You can move very well and quickly. You will surely become an important man in the fire department with so much strength and endurance. But what you can also learn is to relax, to calm down again. Do you want me to show you how to do that?" In this way, the boy can supplement his skills with others. Rather than looking at it in a deficit-oriented way, look at the abilities. It is about giving the child the message: "You're perfectly fine the way you are. I know you can make your way."

### Upon what does it depend?

It's about teachers bringing lightness to school, treating the children with care, realising what the children need and wanting to understand them. If you only divide into good and bad, then you don't see the child, you don't see what it actually does and can do. It's about seeing what's actually going on there. Behavioural problems, learning difficulties, problems at school are messages from children and should be taken seriously. This is exactly when they need the teachers' support.

### **When the relationship is difficult**

If the relationship with the child is not right, then children get stressed. Whoever feels stress can no longer learn. Stress and anxiety block the ability to learn. To study well you have to be relaxed!

Children are naturally curious and want to learn. But this is only possible if they feel protected and safe. That's why no one should be exposed. When children are "not in the mood," it is often because they no longer dare to step out of their protection (cool mask). They would rather do nothing than run the risk of doing something wrong and perhaps being exposed.

### **Children do not fail because of the subject, but because of the lack of a relationship with their teacher!**

The main task of teachers is to support children emotionally. You must maintain a good relationship with the children to make them feel safe. That is the basis for learning.

"Relating to people doesn't mean talking to everyone for half an hour. It means seeing, perceiving the children. For example, I shake hands with every child when they come to class in the morning. This short contact already builds a relationship," explains teacher and evolutionary pedagogue Rita Schwingshackl at the conference: Think school differently.

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