

International long-term voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V.
profile place of assignment (POA) within the program: weltwärts



Kindertagesstätte Bartholomäus



The Kindertagesstätte Bartholomäus (Kita Bartho) is a nursery located in the heart of the City Halle, in close proximity to the river Saale and the Castle Giebichenstein. The building is surrounded by the green of the „Bergzoo“ and „Reichardts Garten“, the former private garden of the composer Johann Friedrich Reichardt, who also received personalities like Goethe or Novalis there.

The Kita Bartho is runned by the „Villa Jühling gemeinnützige evangelische Familienservice GmbH“, a supporting organisation running different nurseries and after school care clubs in Halle and surrounding.

The Kita Bartho is in an old building that used to be a brine bath a long time ago and therefor it has a special design, it is built semicircular. We take care for 90 children in the age from 1 to 6 years. We also have a Hort (after school care club) which is housed in the parish hall of the Bartholomäus church. In the Hort we take care of 60 Kids in the age from 6 to 10 years.

Both, the Kita and the Hort are Christian institutions, but we take care of not Christians and children of all other beliefs, too. Our house is open, what means the kids have the possibility to be all together, no matter how old they are. We don't have group rooms, only functional rooms and the kids choose the room with the offer they prefer.

Field of engagement and activities of the volunteer within place of assignment

The voluntary service at this point of action is social and caring work with younger children. The Voluntary will be assigned to the kindergarten area (3-6 years old) or the crib (1-3 years old), but we consider the wishes and imaginations of the volunteer as good as possible.

However, the volunteer will have contact to all children and parents. The Volunteer will support the daily routine of the children. Own offers- also for parents and staff- depending on the volunteers interests and skills are always welcome.

Activities:

- Accompanying of individual children in free play

- Participation in the meals
- Participation and support at excursions or trips
- Participation and support at celebrations
- Own offers of volunteer
- Bring your culture closer to the children, parents and staff by showing something of the volunteer's home region (songs, games fairy tales...)
- Make the English language and the volunteer's mother tongue accessible to the children in for example daily games and routines or in special theme- related projects

Volunteers profile- specific for this place of assignment

- Enthusiasm for working with children and their families
- Openness to children with disabilities
- Interest in sports, music, cultural and creative work and interest to bring in this knowledge in the work with children
- Need a certificate of good conduct without any entries

Please be aware:

- It's work with children, so it might get loud
- there will be a massive energy in the house except the midday rest
- only a few children, parents and staff speak English.

Reports of former volunteers

Elmira, 2022/23



1. How did you imagine your voluntary service and how was it going?

"My POA-a is "Evangelische Kindertagesstätte der Bartholomäusgemeinde," and I'm volunteering in a kindergarten. I have always imagined that I will be an educator for the kids, helping them learn everyday activities. So, that is what I do. As in every other basic kindergarten, we have a routine that we follow, and in our free time, we make some activities for kids that they choose. This kindergarten is made for kids of their age and has a great concept. Rooms are connected nicely, so the kids are free to move around without barriers, plus educators have an eye on everything all the time. Besides that, access to the garden is possible from every room, and it is hidden from the street."

2. Does the hosting project suit your imaginings?

I would say, "more than expected."

3. What did you like/dislike?

"There is nothing that I would say that I don't like, but there are a lot of things that I like. I love how kids have space to learn and grow and to choose things for themselves. I'm glad that kids have the Montessori method of education, which is a special way of learning. Not only that, but I like that I have the opportunity to show kids new things and to learn a new language. Besides that, I love how my college in this case helps me and supports me in my growth."

4. How was your contact with the team?

"In the beginning, everything is confusing; colleagues don't speak English, and I don't speak German. But, as time flows, I start to learn more and more of German, while on the other side, colleges start to understand me. I think that everyone accepted me really fast, especially when they saw how much I wanted to learn and how much I loved this kind of job."

5. Which new things did you learn?

"I have learned a lot of things through this voluntary service, especially about myself. I have learned about methods and new concepts and realized where I am with my growth and what to improve."

6. How good can you express yourself in German now?

"I think this is enough for managing everyday tasks."

7. Did you develop yourself personally?

"I think I will see where I am exactly when I finish with this service."

8. Did your voluntary service make contribution to your professional orientation?

"With this service, I have confirmed to myself that this is what I will do in the future."