

World-Kamishibai-Day 2020

A presentation by Guylène Colpron and Mechthild Dörfler, project advisors and co-founders of the Frankfurt-based association "Forum Kamishibai" in cooperation with Michaela Schmid, coordinator for family centres in Maintal, Germany.

What it really takes is creativity!

Kick off for the Family-Kamishibai in Germany under Corona conditions.

For many people, the year 2020 is more associated with concern than with cheerfulness. Relationships, culture and everything that promotes togetherness have been neglected in the pandemic. But what helps us and what is needed more than ever are creativity and examples of a practice that takes unusual paths.

In summer 2020, the city of Maintal near Frankfurt/Main started a project to strengthen children's language skills. An important key lies in storytelling, both in the family and in kindergarten. Target group are Pre-school teachers and families. The goal is to promote children with the best possible interaction that build language, communication and literacy. In this context the "Family-Kamishibai" plays a prominent role. Although it is not yet established in Germany, we started with a simple self-made version. We initially had the idea of lending the Family-Kamishibai to parents to see if parents like it and how they use it.

"The small and robust wooden frame is an ideal offer to take along", Michaela Schmid, coordinator of the family centre in Maintal is pleased to say. "It is wonderfully and has a highly appealing character, especially for newly immigrated families with young children". Michaela Schmid accompanies many families who regularly visit the drop-in room for parents and their young children. The "Drop-In" is a place where they can meet other parents or get advice from a social worker.

However, when she wanted to present Kamishibai to the parents, the meeting had to be cancelled due to corona. Without further ado she decided to organize a "Drop In" as an "outdoor meeting" on a playground. There she presented her first Kamishibai Story in the traditional version. All were impressed and the mothers could hardly believe how concentrated their children followed the whole story.

Unfortunately, some time later, these meetings also had to be cancelled. But Michaela Schmid again came up with a creative solution. She offers now a "walk for two", which is very well appreciated by the mothers.



The first German story for a family Kamishibai in DIN-A-4 format is "Herr Möwe, der Briefträger". It was published in summer 2020 by Aya Puster Verlag. Picture and text: TSUNO Yuiko



And she had chosen the World-Kamishibai-Day on December 7, 2020 to hand out her first "Family -Kamishibai" to a mother at the end of their walking tour – to the Joy of the whole Family.