

KIT Brings Natural Sciences and Engineering into Day-care Centers

100th Day-care Teacher Trained for the “Haus der kleinen Forscher”



Mrs. Manuela Chergui from the St. Hedwig kindergarten, Karlsruhe-Waldstadt, is the 100th teacher trained for the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” at the KIT Center for Advanced Technological and Environmental Training. (Photo: KIT)

Since the beginning of this year, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), together with the non-profit education organization BBQ Berufliche Bildung GmbH, has been active in the early scientific and technical education of children at day-care centers. Within the framework of the foundation “Haus der kleinen Forscher” (House of Little Researchers), teachers are trained in order to playfully arouse the interest of children aged from 3 to 6 in natural sciences and engineering. On June 07, training of the 100th teacher for the “Haus der kleinen Forscher” was completed at KIT.

The foundation “Haus der kleinen Forscher” is based on a joint initiative of the Helmholtz Association, McKinsey & Company, the Siemens Foundation, and the Dietmar Hopp Foundation. Germany-wide dissemination of their offers is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. KIT is member of the Helmholtz Association.

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“In the region of Karlsruhe, more than 40 day-care centers and kindergartens participate in the project,” underlines Dr. Julia Ehlermann, who is responsible for the training of pupils and teachers at the KIT Center for Advanced Technological and Environmental Training. “On June 07, training of the 100th teacher for the “Haus der kleinen Forscher“ was completed at KIT.”

At day-care centers that have joined the local network of the foundation, children aged from three to six experiment with everyday materials like straws, pipettes, funnels, plasticine, and balloons. While experimenting and speaking about the phenomena observed, natural sciences and engineering are experienced by the children. In addition, they acquire language, learning, and social competences and further develop their fine motor skills.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation and state institution of Baden-Württemberg, Germany. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT focuses on a knowledge triangle that links the tasks of research, teaching, and innovation.

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