

Consultations at the PFH

From the very beginning the PFH wanted to share the Early Excellence Concept with others. This is why many of the PFH facilities offer professionals the opportunity to take part in consultations. These visits are designed to support the practical work in educational institutions interested in the Early Excellence Concept.

EEC–The Early Excellence Centre Association

In 2004, the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus founded the ‘Early Excellence Centre for Children and their Families Association’, together with the Heinz and Heide Dürr Foundation. This non-profit association aims to spread the Early Excellence Concept within Germany. It is in this spirit that the association trains Early Excellence advisors who inform and help others to put this concept into practice.

Early Excellence Publications

A variety of books, videos and articles have been published about the work of the PFH based on the Early Excellence Concept. You will find a detailed list of all the publications on the PFH website under “Early Excellence”.



The PFH includes:

- a college of social education–school with a European profile
- an advanced technical college for health and social care
- nine day care centres
- full-day care provision in seven primary schools and two secondary schools
- four family centres/neighbourhood centres
- a family counselling service in two places
- open children and youth work
- youth social work in schools
- handicraft activities in cooperation with primary and secondary schools
- therapeutic residential groups for young people/day groups

You can find out who to contact on the PFH website under “contact” and on the pages of the individual facilities.

Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus Foundation (Stiftung des öffentlichen Rechts)

Karl-Schrader-Straße 7–8
10781 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30 217 30-0
Fax: +49 30 217 30-150

info@pfh-berlin.de
www.pfh-berlin.de



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Promoting child development
Strengthening families
Building networks



“Learning with head, heart and hands.”

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746–1827)



About the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus

As well as training educators, the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus (PFH) is also responsible for a number of child and youth support facilities across Berlin—more particularly in the districts of Tempelhof-Schöneberg, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf and Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg.

How we work

The network of practical training and education facilities belonging to the PFH is unique within Germany. It enables the development of practical training and guarantees high quality in all areas of the PFH's work.

International networks, cooperation with partners from science, research, education and culture, as well as the opening of our facilities to the respective neighbourhoods and social spaces, are an integral element in the work of the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus. The PFH College of Social Education has a special European profile.

Origins and development

The Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus was founded in 1874 by Henriette Schrader-Breyman. Her educational concepts were based on the ideas of the two educationalists Friedrich Fröbel (Henriette's great uncle) and Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Pestalozzi championed the idea of holistic education, where the individuality of each child is considered and fostered. His understanding of learning with “head, heart and hands” profoundly shaped the approach of the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus from the very beginning.

Fröbel is regarded as the ‘inventor’ of the kindergarten. He was the first to develop and put into practice an integrated education concept especially designed for early childhood. In 2000 the current PFH Early Excellence Concept was developed in accordance with these traditions in close cooperation with the Pen Green Centre (Corby, England).

The aim of Early Excellence is not the creation of a small educated elite. Instead, the pursuit of excellence is primarily concerned with the quality of the educational work. This should ensure the best possible education for each child; thereby making excellent child development opportunities possible.

Early Excellence—the PFH concept

Early Excellence is all about recognizing the skills and strengths of each child individually and promoting these through parental involvement. Early Excellence institutions—such as day care centres, schools, family centres and other child welfare establishments—also open up and network with cooperation partners in the different neighbourhoods.

Early Excellence offers practical answers to three questions that play a central role in educational work:

- How can we ensure high quality in education, upbringing and care in day care centres, full-day care provision and other educational institutions?
- How can parents be integrated in their children's educational processes?
- What contribution can an educational facility, such as a day care centre, make towards creating a family-friendly infrastructure in the social space?