



EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional
Development Fund

Senate Department
for Economics, Energy
and Public Enterprises



“YOU CAN’T TEACH AN OLD DOG...” – LANGUAGE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND IN LIFE

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IS ALREADY VITALLY IMPORTANT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD because the basis for later language ability is established at an early age. Speaking a language is a key skill that opens up access to education and, therefore, to life opportunities in general. And it is exactly this area in which children from socially disadvantaged families are deeply affected. For this reason, children in the Berlin district of Spandau are given support through the language development programme “Language Professionals – Language and Media Skills Development in Library and Nursery Tandem”. Because reading development begins with language development, the Spandau municipal library launched the cooperation project “... you’re it! Language Development in Tandem Library and Daycare” (...und raus bist du: Sprachförderung im Tandem Bibliothek und Kita) in 2016. On this basis, the language development programme was transferred to the “Language Professionals” follow-up project for a further three years, including digital media.

TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OPPORTUNITIES OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN, the Language Professionals specifically aim to consolidate the language and media skills of young children aged between one and six. The early encouragement of language development should strengthen children’s social skills and communication abilities and improve their chances of equal access to education.

The approach taken is integrated into everyday life: the language development programme, which is usually carried out at daycare centres by educational specialists, is accompanied by further training for daycare staff and parents’ involvement.

THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) IN BERLIN SUPPORTS THE PROJECT with funds from the “Libraries in the District” (BIST) programme within the framework of the Future Initiative District II (ZIS II) and, therefore, contributes to providing socially disadvantaged children with an effective tool against poverty and disadvantage.

»WORKING IN SMALL GROUPS OF NO MORE THAN SIX CHILDREN ENABLES AN INTENSIVE LANGUAGE EXCHANGE AND TARGETED, INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT MEASURES THAT WE CANNOT ALWAYS PROVIDE IN EVERYDAY NURSERY LIFE. IT IS NOT ONLY CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS THAT BENEFIT FROM THIS, THE SHY ONES DO, TOO.«

Stephanie Apel-Schwartz,

Teacher and contact person at the cooperating nursery at Martin-Albertz-Haus in Berlin Spandau



Children learning through play

LANGUAGE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND IN LIFE

The project is based on **three pillars: an additive language development programme** takes place every week in the ten Spandau daycare centres involved in the project. The individual modules include exercises for social-communicative and linguistic-cognitive development. Each of the daycare centres is supervised by a student staff member from the cooperating Sven Walter Institute (SWI) from the non-profit organisation "Gesellschaft für berufsbildende Maßnahmen mbH" (Society for Vocational Training Measures, GFBM). A comprehensive case of materials with picture cards, games and books is available for learning through play. The second pillar involves the **further training for participating staff** from the library and daycare centres, which runs alongside the project. The third pillar is **parental work**. Parents are encouraged to support their children's language development at home within the framework of various event formats.

It is the collaboration between the cooperation partners that makes the Ta-BiKi Language Professionals so successful: the SWI has the educational and linguistic expertise, the daycare centres have the practical professional skills and the municipal library provides a high-quality educational package of working materials in the form of the so-called "**activity case**" and organises further training and events, such as reading festivals.

AN EFFECTIVE TOOL AGAINST POVERTY HAS BEEN CREATED THANKS TO THE ERDF

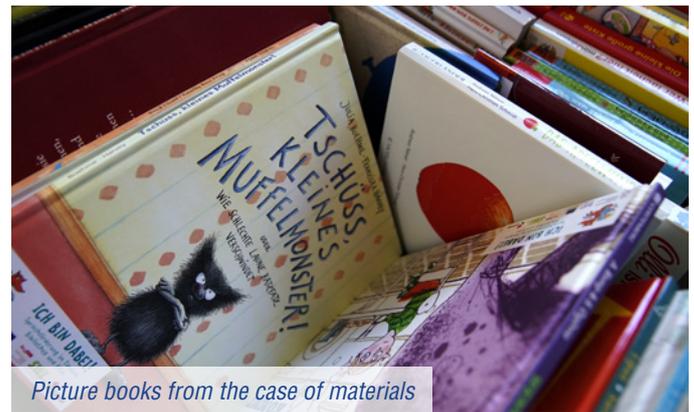
ERDF funding as part of the Future Initiative District II should improve social integration, secure good participation opportunities for all population groups and, therefore, contribute to the stabilisation of disadvantaged districts. An important means of doing this is improving the social infrastructure and adapting to inhabitants' local needs. This is where the TaBiKi Language Professionals project comes in: with the TaBiKi Language Professionals, a project has been created that has a positive effect on the language development and self-confidence of socially disadvantaged children and, therefore, promotes individual opportunities in life. At the same time, the project has involved to have a social impact in districts with a high proportion of low-income and educationally disadvantaged families, where social problems are correspondingly more frequent. Reserved children also notably benefit from the targeted, every-day based language development in small groups. Through regular further training for the staff involved and specific work from parents, the children's social environment is also actively included in their language development. In this way, the project makes a specific contribution to improving the social situation of those threatened by poverty and enables them to make better use of local services in the district, such as the libraries.

Specifically, the ERDF ensures that:

- children with special language development needs are specifically supported.
- social problems in the affected districts can be effectively tackled.



Children get a stamp after each module in their project logbooks



Picture books from the case of materials



Fridolin the parrot and Anneliese the fox accompany children through the programme.

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