

Experiences with kiditec within the scope of our project week on the topic “Building“ in kindergarten and primary school in Felben-Wellhausen/Switzerland

During one week, first grade children and kindergarteners of Felben-Wellhausen tested kiditec, which had kindly been provided to us.

Already at the beginning, the huge tower crane attracted everyone’s attention. The children learned with amazement that it could be built with just this material, just as all the other samples.

None of the children was familiar with kiditec.

After having presented the different building elements and some possibilities of construction to the children, they eagerly set to work.

It was very interesting and revealing to watch the children: Some of them were busying themselves for a long time in groups of two or three with swinging individual or several components with the help of the tower crane between the building sites and unloading them. A role playing game started.

Others simply began to plug individual parts. We could observe that mainly girls built houses this way.

Many children wanted to build a vehicle on wheels using their own imagination.

Mainly for kindergarteners, this required a longer phase of trial and error and combination. This also called for patience and imagination.

The youngest were looking for help from the instructors.

Mainly the schoolchildren were systematically working according to the assembly plans. They soon noticed that it was yet easier to work in pairs. So one child for instance was getting the necessary material and the other one was assembling the parts.

The assembly plans are easy to understand and clear for children.

The children were assiduous and very concentrated in their work.

Now and then, 8 children were working together, alone, or in small sub-groups.

Some of the smallest ones lacked the necessary strength to disassembly the plugged elements.

Every day another group of children could try kiditec along with other construction games.

The different “building sites” were at free disposal for the children.

kiditec drew the children’s attention and stimulated them to creative constructions.

I judge kiditec as a very multifunctional construction game which is suitable for children at various levels of development.

By imitating one another, children got to know new possibilities of construction.

A relatively broad supply of individual elements, from the size of the kindergarten sets medium and large, is required. Wheels are extremely popular and, for a class, it

makes sense that a school set contain at least 12 wheels and 6 quintuple elements together with single to quadruple elements.

After the project week the kindergarteners could continue playing with kiditec. Now a role playing game started to develop with the plugged and screwed objects. Also the youngest ones began to stay longer at this site of play. By imitating and repeating, they made progresses every day.

Summed up impressions of kiditec:

- Most children are able to easily assembly and disassembly it.
- At the beginning, kindergarteners need support with the construction possibilities.
- kiditec is suitable for children at various levels of development.
- Thanks to the big building elements, children can well busy themselves in groups of two or three with the same construction or orient well optically and learn from one another by way of imitation.
- For a class of kindergarteners, there need to be enough building elements, wheels etc. at disposal.
- The big building elements and the finished works need plenty of room.

kiditec is a construction game that I would like to put at the children's disposal in the free play area, maybe in exchange with other kindergarten grades.

In this regard I am going to confer with my colleagues, analyse the expense and plan a possible moment of purchase.

Having kiditec tried by the children on the spot proved to be a useful base for decision. I would like to thank you again for this possibility.

Yours Sincerely,

The Felben-Wellhausen instructors