

Child protection concept

In accordance with the framework agreement on the protection mandate of child and youth welfare (§§ 8a and 72a SGB VIII) as amended on 11. 12. 2013.

The DGB- Youth Education Center (Jugendbildungsstätte) Flecken Zechlin is a recognized provider of voluntary youth welfare according to §75 SGB VIII and since 1993 has been active in the field of political and cultural education and the promotion of democracy. With workshops, seminars, meetings, camps, project days and democracy workshops, we foster democratic and historical awareness and promote a lively and versatile democratic culture . We work with methods derived from both political education and experiential education, in addition to self-reflective approaches which stand for innovative learning, participant-orientation and the experience of democratic decision-making processes.

The core motivation of our work is to support and accompany young people in their search for their own points of view and perspectives in life. The focus of our work is aimed at 12-26 year olds.

In our programs ,children and adolescents can develop their talents in an appreciative environment: independent of heritage and without pressure of expectations, they can discover their strengths and abilities, and experience new things. The central value in our work is child protection and thinking and acting in the best interests of the children and young people entrusted to us. We regularly document and evaluate the quality of both our work and the feedback from our participants which is regularly evaluated.

The employees and freelancers of the DGB-Jugendbildungsstätte strive to provide children and adolescents with encouragement and support, and foster respect, bonding and relationships in the group as well as creating a secure and tolerant space.

In the programs, personal closeness and joie de vivre goes hand in hand with holistic learning and practice.

The work of the team is characterized by values such as respect, appreciation and trust. An age-appropriate setting, supports children and adolescents in their chances to achieve co-determination and also learn how to recognize and defend their own needs, and thus develop good social interaction. The personality and dignity of the young people in our care are very important to us.

Of course, this also means that children and adolescents have a right to respect of their personal boundaries and are entitled to support and assistance in the event of sexual and/or other violent assaults.

The child protection concept should provide confidence for preventive measures and help to initiate the necessary steps in the event of a required intervention.

This not only protects children and young people but also the employees and volunteers involved because the child protection concept encourages transparent and open exchange on the topic of (sexual) violence.

The behavior that our organization considers desirable, tolerable or unacceptable, have been defined in a behavioral traffic light (see point 2, pp. 5-6).

If anyone notices inappropriate behavior by colleagues regarding these standards, it is essential to report this to us - if necessary with the help of a third party (six-eye principle).

It is imperative that this is addressed gently and openly. The exact procedure for responding to such behavior is described in the procedure under point 3 (p. 8-11).

Under certain circumstances, endangering the welfare of a child constitutes a criminal offense. As soon as a complaint has been filed, the authorities/institutions concerned are

obliged to investigate. Therefore, no rash or hasty judgments should be made. Information must be treated discreetly and must not be passed on to third parties (e.g. media). It is important to document each process internally in writing with a corresponding report. If employees notice that something is "wrong" with a child, that is, that the child's well-being could be at risk, it is important to act calmly and professionally. It is extremely important that there is respectful cooperation between the DGB-youth education center, the person concerned, the cooperation partner as well as the family and, if necessary, the juvenile welfare service. The highest priority in the case of suspected abuse is the protection of the child or the adolescent. Any allegations or statements suggesting that abuse has occurred must be taken seriously and in all cases help should be offered.

In principle, the following rules apply:

1. an imminent threat to the welfare of a child, a violation of the child's physical integrity or against sexual self-determination is to be stopped immediately.
2. remain calm, avoid overreacting and inform the responsible authorities/persons.
3. offer the person concerned a protected space and involve him or her in the subsequent course of action.

The precise procedure to be followed in the event of a suspected or specific incident is regulated under point 3 (p. 8-11). Management must be informed of every allegation.