



KINDER FÖRDERN UND FAMILIEN UNTERSTÜTZEN

Fostering Children and Supporting Families

**City of Salzgitter
Department 1 – Children, Youth and Family
Municipal Children- and Youth Support**

Dealing with Media in the Municipal Children- and Youth Support

Cities for Children / 10 September 2010

1) Basic Principle

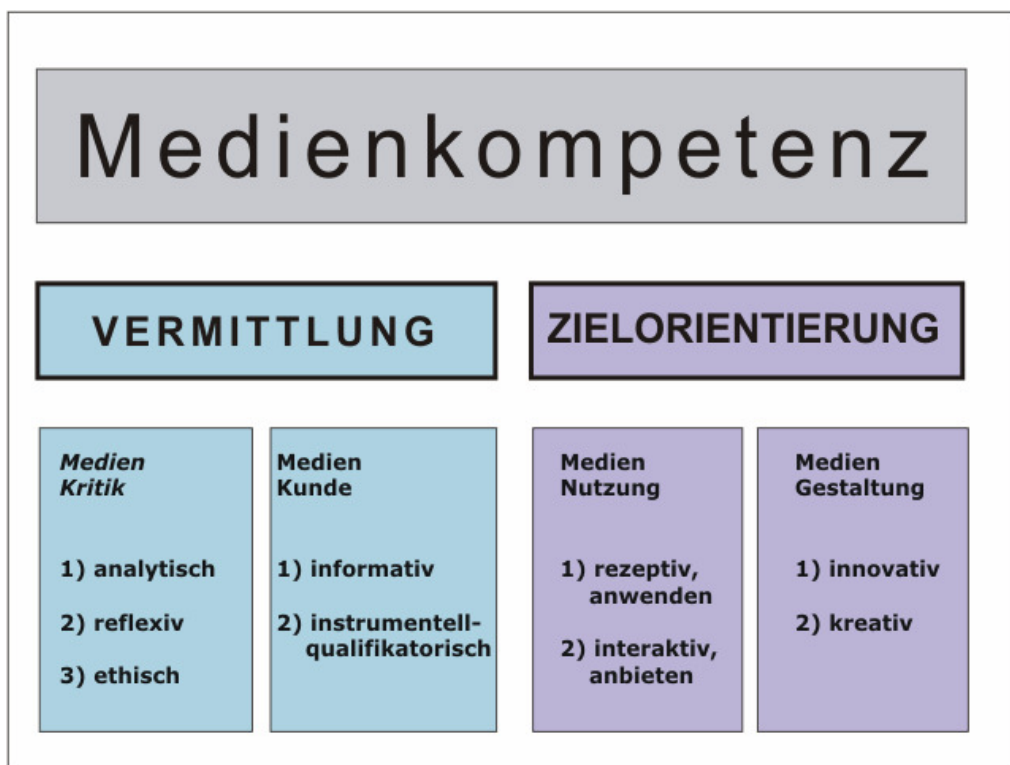
Nowadays children and adolescents are growing up in a world that, as never before, is characterized by communicating through a variety of media. Personal computers, internet and cell phones have already found their way into the children's rooms. Children and juveniles take it for granted to text message or email and do research on the internet to get support for their homework assignment. Using all those media in everyday professional-, school- and home life is taken for granted, handling them properly is a prerequisite for many jobs. Unfortunately, this natural requirement for media literacy does not equate with the natural development of media literacy with children and juveniles. There is still a lack of staff and equipment in many schools, nurseries and facilities for young adolescents in order to ensure a long-term and reliable development of media literacy.

For that reason, the Municipal Children- and Youth Support of the City of Salzgitter is engaged in the project "Media Literacy- and Prevention" aiming at the development of children's and juveniles' media literacy.

2) Objectives in Dealing with Media

Media literacy is defined as the ability to apply and use media and their content efficiently in accordance with your own aims and needs. Besides, the term "media literacy" is subdivided into four dimensions:

- *Media Critical Analysis* comprises the ability to bring your own dealing with and through media into question and to adapt it
- *Media Literacy Education* covers the knowledge about current media systems and the ability to operate them
- *Media Consumption* describes the interactive use of media
- *Media Design* states the innovative and creative changes and developments which go beyond everyday use



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Medienkompetenz	Media Literacy
Vermittlung	Education
Zielorientierung	Aiming at Skills to Develop
Medienkritik	Media Critical Analysis (analytical/reflexive/ethical)
Medienkunde	Media Literacy Education (educational/instrumental-qualificatory)
Mediennutzung	Media Consumption (1) receptive, using and processing, (2) inter-active, offering
Mediengestaltung	Media Design (1) innovative, (2) creative

Basically, priority is given to the active use of media, by which critical faculty is supposed to be developed, which again, once gained, can be used for a critical analysis of the variety of media. Beyond that, a critical analysis of media will evoke the user's critical analysis of himself, thus enabling new ways of the user's autonomy.

Based on these definitions and the general framework of the open children- and youth work the concept of dealing with media of the Municipal Children- and Youth Support pursues the following aims:

1. *Providing computer- and internet workstations free of charge observing the legal protection for children and juveniles or the German legal framework for youth media protection*
2. *Implementing offers for key media work and for target-group-specific youth media protection*
3. *Implementing and supervising media educational projects and offers in the context of collaboration with parents and families*
4. *Training and further training facilities for full-time and voluntary staffers at the Municipal Children- and Youth Support (multipliers)*
5. *Supporting full-time staff at the Municipal Children- and Youth Support with media educational offers*
6. *Collaboration and intercommunication with other bodies in the field of media work*

¹ Grafik: „Mk_Grafik.png“, Quelle: Wikipedia (<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medienkompetenz>)

3. The General Framework of Media Work

The general framework of the open children- and youth work are stipulated in the working basis of the Municipal Children- and Youth Support of the City of Salzgitter. Based on this, hereafter you will find the specific framework of media work.

3.1. Statutory Basis/Pedagogic Legal Protection for Children and Juveniles

The open children- and youth work is based on the Child and Youth Welfare Act (KJHG). The articles 11 and 14 will provide the appropriate implementations for media use:

§ 11 Youth Work

(1) Young people will be provided with those offers for youth work which are required to support their development. They are to build on the young people's interests and provide participation and co-determination, empowerment to self-determination, motivation and introduction to social joint responsibility and social commitment...

3) Focus of youth work is on: 1. extracurricular youth education with general, political, social, health, cultural, scientific and technical education, ... 3. working environment-, school- and family-related youth work, ... 6. youth-counselling service.

§ 14 Pedagogic Legal Protection for Children and Juveniles

(1) Young people and parents/legal guardians are to be made offers of the pedagogic legal protection for children and juveniles.

(2) The provisions made are to 1) enable young people to protect themselves from jeopardising influences and to lead them to critical faculty, decision-making abilities, self-responsibility as well as to liability towards society 2. empower parents and other legal guardians better to protect children and young people from jeopardising influences.

Beyond that, the German Legal Framework for Youth Media (JMStV) will define the content of offers and media which are not allowed to be made available to children and juveniles.

§ 4 Illegitimate Offers

(1) Without prejudice to criminal responsibility offers are illegitimate if they imply (a simplified selection):

- Use and display of features related to anti-constitutional organisations
- Incitement to racial hatred
- Playing down crimes perpetrated under the rule of the National Socialism
- Glorification of violence and war
- Pornographic depiction of violence, animals and child pornography (applies to virtual display, too)
- Displaying children and youth in unnaturally sex-pointed pose (applies to virtual display, too)
- Violation of human dignity, in particular displaying people who are agonizing or suffer from severe physical or mental ailments

§ 5 Offers Impairing Development

(1) Provided that providers circulate offers or make them available which are suitable to impair the development of children and juveniles to autonomous and social characters, those persons aforementioned are to procure that children and juveniles of the age group concerned will not generally use them. ...

(3) The provider can comply with his obligation emerging from subparagraph 1 by rendering the use of the offer for children and young people of the age group concerned impossible or impeding it significantly using technical or other aids, or by picking the time in which such offers are circulated or made available so that children and juveniles of the age group concerned will not generally use them.

§ 11 Youth Protection Programmes

(1) The provider of teleservices can comply with the requirements as per article 5 paragraph 3 subparagraph 1 by programming offers which are suitable to impair the development of children and young people for an authorized youth protection programme or by prefixing it.

3.2. Internet Workstations

At present seven children- and youth centres (KJTs) offer access to the so-called internet workstations during their regular opening hours, that is in concrete terms in the centres KJT Graffiti (4 computers), KJT Thiede (4), KJT Bambula (4), KJT Hamberg (2), JKW/KJT Forellenhof (3), KJT Barum (3) und KJT Lichtenberg (3). In 2010 further internet workstations are being installed in the centres KJT Gebhardshagen, Hallendorf and Heerte. The configuration of hardware depends on the respective place and can vary. Owing to a possible risk of theft the computers and all relevant rooms are secured with appropriate measures, always in consultation with the responsible full-time staffers at the centres, the fire service and the facility management at the City of Salzgitter.

In the wake of building refurbishments or new furnishing internet workstations are being installed increasingly right near the bars or in open areas. Thus these are better in the focus of the full-time staffers and of other visitors. Thereby, in many cases, an effective and quick (self-) regulation in tricky situations will come about.

3.3. Collaboration among Children- and Youth Centres

The full-time staffers at the children- and youth centres are in charge of the day-to-day run of the internet workstations on the spot. All the necessary steps (turning on/off, supervision of procedures in the rooms etc.) are integral part of the day-to-day run of the business.

In order to safeguard a smooth run and a highest possible availability, the staffers in charge are in constant communication with the media teacher about the latest developments at the internet workstations and the necessary adjustments, enhancements and repairs.

The official computers and notebooks in the offices are supposed to be used only by the full-time staffers. If required, controlled access can be installed for group leaders.

Principally, all staffers are obliged to act in compliance with the applicable law and in-house provisions in the day-to-day run of computers and the internet. That applies in particular to antivirus, data security, copyright law and a careful risk assessment in vague situations.

3.4. Further Education and Development

Handling the media computer and internet is subject to a constant development in the fields of hardware and software as well as new or modified approaches to use them. In order to account for these developments there is a keen interest in taking part in work groups, further training courses or symposia. Besides, there is always the necessity to develop or refine individual software- and hardware solutions or to adjust changes.

4. Implementation of Objectives

The above-mentioned objectives are implemented through the following measures, actions and projects:

4.1. Provision of computers and internet workstations free of charge observing the legal protection for children and juveniles or the German legal framework for youth media protection

All the computers in the internet workstations of the children- and youth centres are subject to some controlled use by means of various measures in accordance with the legal protection and are protected from wilful modifications of the operating system as well as physical alterations of the respective desks and shelves. Thereby the children and juveniles have no immediate admission to the computers and interfaces as USB connections, floppy disk- or CD drives are not available. All the computers are interconnected with a master computer of the pedagogic management. Thus data at the internet workstations can be read or written and documents be printed.

Using the facilities is free of charge, however, not principally and unconditionally available. According to pedagogic or technical restrictions the internet workstations in a children- and youth centre can be temporarily closed or even removed.

Using them for doing homework, writing applications or other school-related research can be excluded from such a closure.

There is free of charge open-source- or freeware software installed on all computers which enables all users to edit and create office documents, graphics or other multimedia data. Besides, there are games installed which are disposable and can be used. If required, more programs and games can be installed by the administrator.

Due to the backup computers in the internet workstations need regular updating as these functions are inaccessible in the standard mode. This is a consequence arising from the fact that there are users who are young and inexperienced or others who intentionally want to cause damage. Die Computer in den Internetstationen bedürfen aufgrund der Absicherung regelmäßige Updates, da diese Funktionen im Normalbetrieb gesperrt sind. This effort can be reduced by identical hardware equipment and mirroring the hard disc, but not excluded. In every children- and youth centre offering the use of internet workstations the entire internet traffic is controlled by a server. This computer connects to the internet and controls the content of the websites accessed (content filter). The websites are filtered according to different criteria and rules preset in accordance with the applicable law and, depending on the results, redirected to the computer requesting or not. In that case users will get an error message indicating the cause. If the surf performance is regular, users will not notice the presence of a filter at all.

To safeguard a steady and safe connection at this point, not only for the mere media pedagogic work but for the internet accessibility of the children- and youth centre per se, the servers are subject to regular maintenance and updating.

4.2. Implementing offers for key media work and for target-group-specific media protection

The Municipal Children- and Youth Support offers within a „Media Workshop“ several further training courses which are open to all institutions, public bodies and organizations engaged in the open children- and youth work and to the local schools.

The following topics are conceivable:

- Internet-courses: Dealing with the respectively latest developments in the World Wide Web, Web2.0, the communication platform “Schüler VZ” and other social networking websites, Happy Slapping and cyber-bullying
- PC-courses: creating an e-mail address, Office-applications, digital image processing, designing flyers and posters
- Computer engineering courses: Supporting and advising participants in computer engineering matters, providing assistance with buying and assembling computers
- Job application training in collaboration with KompAS/Pace: How to draft an appropriate application/a curriculum vitae? How to realise an application online? How to compile the data required for an application via e-mail?
- Creating a homepage: Structure and design of an own free-of-charge homepage
- Mobile phone workshop: What is the performance of my mobile phoney? How to create a free-of-charge background image? What is Bluetooth? Does my mobile phone have any other features which matter to me?
- LAN-Party: Performing PC-network game actions, providing assistance with planning and performing LAN-parties, youth protection-related matters, material organisation

All offers are open to children and juveniles as well as to multipliers or educational supervisors. The respective actual offers are supposed to be adjusted to current developments and changes in the realm of media work.

4.3. Implementing and supervising media educational projects and offers in the context of collaboration with parents and families

The success rates in media work with children and juveniles in children- and youth centres will vary to a certain extent. Therefore it is vital to involve parents and families in media work in order to impart media literacy with a lasting and comprehensive effect.

The variety of media and their particular developments together with the accessibility of parents and families provide, however, another frame in which those activities can and have to proceed.

The actions listed below are exemplary and can be subject to major changes in the course of action:

- Parents-teacher conferences or information events on various topics, for instance cyber security, mobile phones, computer games, legal protection for children and young persons etc.
- Performing network game actions, so-called LAN-parties, which are suitable for children, juveniles, parents and families to try games, receive information, and gain and share experiences.
- Consultations at school
- Consultations in children- and youth centres

4.4. Training and further training facilities for full-time and voluntary staffers at the Municipal Children- and Youth Support (multipliers)

All media mentioned and their content as well as their area of usage are subject to continual changes and adjustments. Therefore there are information events at irregular intervals aiming at supplying the necessary information on those changes to all full-time staffers of the Municipal Children- and Youth Support concerned with media work. These events can be executed by internal or external consultants as required.

Moreover, the voluntary staffers will be trained in the field of media work, too. This will be done by the media educator in charge only.

4.5. Supporting full-time staffers at the Municipal Children- and Youth Support with media educational offers

Media projects performed in children- and youth centres by the staff in charge offer the possibility to involve the staffer responsible for the media project. The collaboration can comprise everything concerning media work, from supporting the execution of projects to advising prior to an action. However, it is always the staff at the children- and youth centres who assume full responsibility for the projects.

4.6. Collaboration and intercommunication with other bodies in the field of media work

Media work is no „one man show“. Collaboration, mutual support and the network of media work are vital to imparting media literacy. It mirrors models of how to use media or the internet. In fact, there is a keen interest in collaborating with other institutions of the City of Salzgitter or the Federal Land of Lower Saxony engaged in media work, and in performing joint projects. The ways of collaborating range from providing hardware to joint ventures.

4.6. Quality Assurance

As outlined, all media and their use are not static but are subject to a continual development and ongoing changes. In order to meet these requirements, media work is supposed to be in a state of continuous development and kind of benchmarking.

For this reason, all objectives, projects, methods and content of media work need reviewing and supervising in terms of their impact and up-to-dateness and, if required, adjustments.