

# The Bilingual Daycare and Early Learning Center in Schaffhausen

International School of Schaffhausen



"Children learn in different ways and go through their own individual development. For us as a day care centre and school, the top priority is to offer a structured but flexible environment that will cater for individual needs. Such a combination is the best environment for children to develop their abilities and talents. The essentials are mutual respect and a community that recognizes that we are all different personalities with the same basic needs such as mutual respect, success and friendship. In a structured environment, children and young people experience how consistency and discipline have a positive effect on a sustainable learning success...

Gundula Kohlhaas | Head of School

"Eyes wide open, curious and full of energy – they explore the world."

In our child care centre and kindergarten, the growth of children and their development into happy and well-balanced individuals is our main focus. All efforts are aimed at fostering the joy of discovery and learning. Activities such as eating together, sharing toys or role-plays provide opportunities for developing social skills and developing friendships and relationships outside the family network. We immerse the children in the world of letters and numbers to build early foundations in Mathematics and the two languages English and German. Walks in the nearby forest become exciting expeditions, a picnic a fanciful feast. Together we sing, listen to stories and observe the seasonal changes in the nature surrounding our premises. With this mix of guided and free play activities, we build the best base for a successful school career. Being immersed in two languages, German and English, at an early age, also helps to lay the foundations for future success and an international mindset.

### Early Learning Centre / Kindergarten 3 to 6 year-olds

• full day care (until 18:00), half day and single day bookings possible early introduction to letters and numbers

• bilingualism through "immersion method"

The Early Learning Centre for children aged 3 to 6 is located in the south wing, a separate area of the school. In addition to the three spacious classrooms, which invite exploration and discovery, there is a separate playground with age-appropriate playground equipment and a large sandpit just for the little ones. The kindergarten children participate in many primary school activities and events, such as sports day and special assemblies.

..... Our daughters joined the ISCC childcare since they were a few months old, and we immediately knew we were really lucky to have found the ISCC. The team is experienced and well-qualified. They put a lot of care and dedication in their daily schedules. The daily programs have a variety of activities (with pedagogic concepts) which allow the children to learn and develop different skills i.e. baking, painting, 'reading' books, dancing, singing, playing music, story-telling, etc. The children are also taken outside daily in a safe environment, either on the school's premises or walking through the nearby forest. The food provided is very good, not to forget healthy and varied. We (as parents) are very happy with the ISCC childcare, the team is really outstanding. We can fully recommend the ISCC childcare, you will have peace of mind knowing your kids are in excellent hands while you need to be away." Sarah & Ilse's Parents

#### Child Care 0 to 3 year-old

- loving all-round care for babies, toddlers and young children from 3 months to 3 years
- well-designed and fully equipped facilities
- highly professional early childhood educators
- excellent carer-child-ratio
- quality-conscious staff with high safety and security awareness
- flexibility with regard to the individual needs of children & parents

The International School Childcare Centre (ISCC) - caters for the needs of our youngest community members.

#### Day structures for working parents

For working parents, it can be challenging to balance your child's, your family's, and your own personal needs. Without reliable and professional support, this phase in one's life can be challenging. The International School of Schaffhausen has developed tailor-made and highly flexible solutions for working parents.

We look after and support your child during times when you need to fully focus on your job or when you need some time for yourself. Our flexible full-day structures allow you to have a customized program until 6 pm. The children are members of a loving and caring community in which they feel secure. We offer a stimulating environment with clear structures alternating between free play and activity sessions. And due to the bilingual environment, the children pick up an additional language on the go.



Bilingual all-day care



Exceptional teacher-child ratio

Early Mathematics Tuition

## **A Bilingual Environment** in Schaffhausen

Living and learning in two languages is the most natural thing for children in the Early Learning Centre of the International School of Schaffhausen

Sophie and her mother found their way to the International School of Schaffhausen about half a year ago. Although only four years old, Sophie wanted to learn German. Her mother, who herself needs to speak several languages in her work environment knows from experience how important language skills are in today's world of work, and also how laboriously they are acquired with conventional methods in schools.

During the taster visit to the kindergarten, both were fascinated by the playful learning environment in which they could immerse themselves Sophie's parents decided without further ado to enrol her with immediate effect.

In the beginning, of course, Sophie was challenged when it came to understanding the German sequences of the programme. When being read to in German, Sophie was just listening and inferring meaning from the pictures. Communicating with the German speaking children was a bit more difficult in the beginning. Sophie would have liked to tell the little Swiss girl Anna what her doll was saying, but they handled it somehow and soon became best friends in spite of the language barrier. Today, six months later, this is no longer a problem, and Sophie hardly notices when she switches between languages. In the Early Learning Centre, both English and German activities are being offered. When it is English time, Sophie is in her element. She loves the songs and stories and can cheerfully share what comes to her mind.

> "The ISSH daycare was a great experience for our daughter and for us. From the beginning, we felt greatly supported. We could express our fears and anxieties about our little one and always found the team to be understanding and supportive. They accompanied our daughter in her development and challenged and encouraged her right from the start "

Parents of Emma