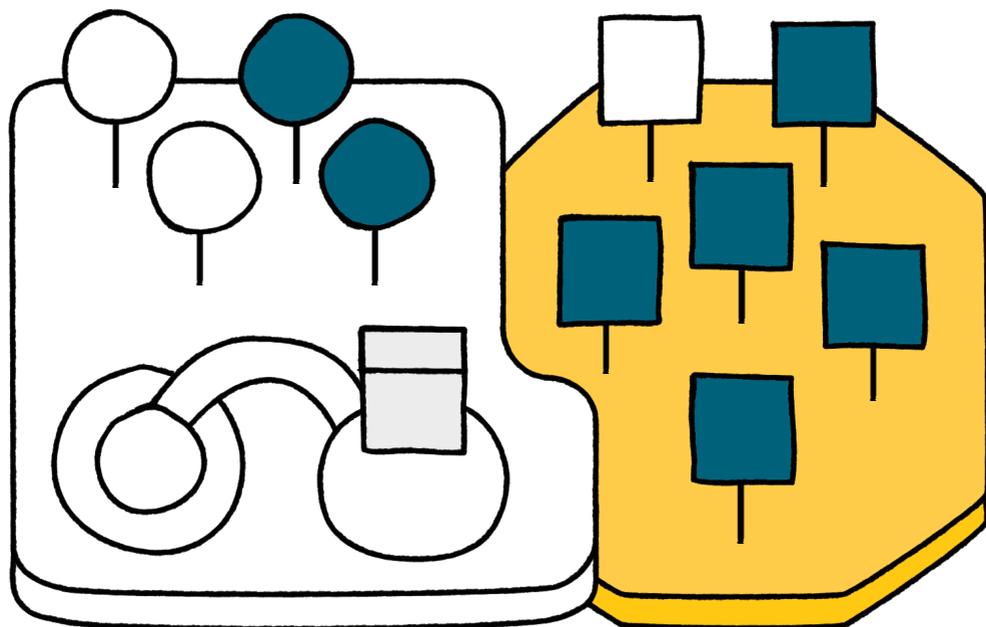


21 Rapperswil-Jona Schlüssel family centre



Time frame

Since 2015

Stakeholders

Political legislative
Political executive
Extra-curricular education
Child protection
Prevention and health promotion
Civil society
Government builders

Typologies (space types)

Inside space



Institutional framework



Design quality criteria

Accessibility
Opportunities to interact



Structure-related quality criteria

Designing the provisions/
living spaces
Collaboration
Coordination
Efficacy review
Participation and identification

The starting point

Children discover the world and we are there for them – promoting small children is mainly done within the family in their first few years of life. The city of Rapperswil-Jona brought together several providers in a family centre as part of their Early Years Promotion 2013 strategy in order to support families in this matter.

The Schlüssel family centre has been in operation in Rapperswil-Jona since June 2015. After the previous tenant had moved out, the Schlüssel property was able to be converted into a meeting point for mothers and fathers with small children, as had long been planned. The family centre is near a large playground and is a place to meet and talk for mothers, fathers and guardians with small children. It is a place where mothers and fathers can get information and orientation, advice, integration and self-help. The family centre is creating further synergies between various provisions and has a preventative function.

Aims

Construction of a recreational and skills centre for families in which advice, discussions, information, education and prevention can take place. Utilisation of synergies in providing advice to the parents of small children and creation of a meeting point for discussions between mothers, fathers and other guardians of small children.

Target group

All mothers, fathers and guardians with small children aged between 0 and 6 in Rapperswil-Jona (family planning advice centre: incl. Linthgebiet area) and men and women without children, regardless of their cultural, social and linguistic backgrounds.

Costs

The Schlüssel property, owned by the city, had to be renovated. Around 200,000 Swiss francs were spent on the inside renovations to make it suitable for the special needs of a family centre. The city pays the annual rent of the Familienforum [Family Forum] association for the café, operational costs and the coordinator's wage (0.15 FTE) of around 60,000 francs.

Then there are also the costs of the parental advice (rent, wages, operation).

Project progression

The Child and Family department facilitated discussions with the providers involved, developed a concept and supervised the building works in the Schlüssel property, which were implemented by the city's property and construction administrations. As all providers already worked in Rapperswil-Jona, the moving in and the opening had to be carefully planned and coordinated. In May 2015, the new tenants moved in after 16 months of preparation.

The in-house providers have been supported by a city coordinator since March 2015. She organises the extensive information centre with information on the centre's events, baby groups, babysitters, day care options and other services, as well as the monthly parents' event, "Schlüssel Mondays", and the generations café in collaboration with the Age and Health department.

The café, run by the Familienforum association's volunteers, is at the heart of the building and is open five days a week. It has become a popular meeting place. This is where mothers and fathers meet and children play, do crafts, sing or simply talk. The cantonal advice service for family planning, pregnancy and sexuality is available to adults here even before birth and beyond. Parents of newborns are supported by the city's parent advice team after giving birth at the latest. This team is additionally supported by an educational counsellor.

Success factors

- Coordination of the three different city service provisions.
- Utilisation of the synergies between the provisions.
- Skilled and motivated team.
- Regular opening hours.

Challenges

Large seasonal shifts in café visitor numbers.

Conclusion

The family centre has become a key milestone in increasing early years promotion in Rapperswil-Jona. Combining the advice provisions for babies and small children under one roof was a great success and has achieved the desired synergies. The family centre has become a popular recreational space for parents and children and enjoys a high level of awareness beyond city limits.

The Schlüssel family centre is a worthwhile investment in the future and a key contribution to the successful participation of families in societal life in Rapperswil-Jona.

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