

Project: „The Blank Page. Developing World Images and Image Worlds with Children“

The future starts by asking questions...

This is why the questions and ideas of children are important to promote peaceful coexistence around the world.

In Public Libraries, we jointly share a large treasure of stories, images and songs from around the world. They invite to discover, wonder and ask questions.

We love diversity. And every day, we experience that great ideas are born through diverse questions, through imagination and through stories. Questions and ideas enable sustainable development.

The goals of the SDGs show us where to go: in the direction of peace, justice, environmental protection and good cooperation.

In order to spread these ideas to different places, we in Schleswig-Holstein have developed the project „**The Blank Page. Developing World Images and Image Worlds with Children**“ in collaboration with the “Book Pirates” from Lübeck. Since 2018, we are implementing this project thanks to the support of the Sustainability Culture Fund.

The “Blank Page”, a white sheet of paper, implies openness and space for children’s questions and imagination. The basis of our project are around 80 questions on the SDGs from children and 17 illustrations from teenagers inspired by these questions. Combined, they are a motivation to tell stories, to read, create and ask further questions.

For libraries, we now offer a diverse range of activities on the topic of the 17 SDGs, such as creative workshops, book boxes, Kamishibai narrative theater and songs.

Through listening, inquiring, wondering, collaborating and discussing,

- children refine their perception with all senses.
- children reflect what they perceive. They can philosophize, develop visions, dream and plan.
- children try out possible changes. They experience and deepen their own ability to shape their future and their creativity, for example through painting, inventing stories and making music.

So far (spring 2019), diverse media modules and activities on the SDGs have been created in the context of the project for working with pre- and primary-school aged children in Public Libraries:

- The multilingual picture book “How does future actually come about?” online or as a download as Kamishibai here: <https://www.bilingual-picturebooks.org>
- 15 book boxes for the libraries in Schleswig-Holstein with a total of around 400 selected books on the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda
- Practical guidance with diverse book recommendations
- A collection of songs for the project with easy songs to sing along and add on to
- A short film on the project with music and links to the illustrations of the teenagers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z9aBN7T6Ag>
- Different workshop concepts and publications for multipliers
- Contacts and ideas for future national and international collaborations
- Diverse possibilities to develop the collected experiences for the coming years

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