

Report from the Felben-Wellhausen school / Switzerland

On Thursday, March 26, two groups of pupils from **the second to the fourth grade** came to me for a lesson during which we built different constructions using kiditec®.

The first group only learned on arrival that we had planned to do building. Some children looked at me open eyed and were looking slightly offended “You are not expecting us to play with building blocks, are you?” Of course I was! Most of them were curious and delighted, but two boys were poking fun at my idea. However, they were both rather puzzled as they had no idea what was waiting for them...

I explained to the pupils that they were toy testers and therefore had to write their thoughts down at three different moments in time (cf. letter).

Subsequently, I quickly showed them how to assemble, screw and add on to new dimensions etc. It all had to be really short, for now they were all impatient to start building.

I consciously didn't provide the pupils with assembly instructions, but first let them build freely. Only later did I concretize their task by imposing the use of at least one rotary element. This wasn't so easy for some of the children, but I let them try and experiment while offering only minimal help. Meanwhile, the building got so enthralling for them that they were all enthusiastically at work, even if, at times, they had puzzle a little. Some of them managed to solve their problems on their own while others either copied their playmates or asked them for help.

This should have been filmed!

The most difficult part was to stop the children at the end of the lesson because they were so full of ideas which they wanted to put into practice!

The second group knew in advance that they were coming for building. The children were volunteers who had been called in. The approach and the task were the same as with the first group. In this group as well, teams of two spontaneously formed to build together.

In both groups I noticed that the younger children as well as the girls rather made use of the plugging functions. But the more they built, the more they also used the possibility of screwing the parts together.

The boys immediately grabbed the wheels. I feel that it is important to provide lots of wheels, for the children literally jump on them.

All of the children of both groups were thrilled and had many ideas. For some girls, it was a rather unfamiliar activity, but since the task was completely open, they rapidly gained in self confidence. **At the end, no child wanted to leave the room. I had to literally “throw them out”.**