

Helmholtz Association partners with 'Little Scientists' initiative

The Helmholtz Association is a dedicated and devoted long-term partner of the 'Little Scientists' initiative.

Early scientific, mathematical and technical education in education and care services, kindergartens and primary schools has been long neglected in Germany, although it constitutes the basis of a technically competent society. That is why the Helmholtz Association is committed to supporting the 'Little Scientists' initiative.

In our modern, technology driven world, future generations of Germans need to be able to engage in political and social discussions regarding the technologies of the future (e.g. affecting climate change, energy sources, mobility) and be sufficiently informed to make considered judgements about them on the basis of a solid grounding. Germany needs young people who are interested in scientific and technical issues from an early age and throughout their formative years, who will then pursue careers in these areas. These academically and non-academically trained experts will ensure innovative technical developments in companies, culminating in patents and inventions that will subsequently boost Germany's technological and research capabilities, reputation and profitability in a global market. The foundations for such a future are laid in pre-school and primary education.

That is why the Helmholtz Association helped establish the 'Little Scientists' initiative in 2008 and has continued to provide ongoing funding. In a unique public-private partnership with the Siemens Foundation, the Dietmar Hopp Foundation, the Deutsche Telekom Foundation, Autostadt in Wolfsburg and the Federal German Ministry for Education and Research, the 'Little Scientists' initiative is anchoring day-to-day interactions with science, mathematics and technology in German preschools, kindergartens and primary schools on a permanent and sustainable basis. The 'Little Scientists' initiative provides support to early childhood teachers and educators in helping children on their paths of discovery each and every day. All children need to have the opportunity to discover their own individual talents and gifts in these areas by themselves in their early years.

With its commitment to the 'Little Scientists' initiative, the Helmholtz Association, Germany's largest non-university research organisation, is helping to lift the significance and quality of mathematics, information technology, science and technology education and career motivation from the earliest time possible. The Helmholtz Association will continue to pursue its commitment to the 'Little Scientists' initiative in future in order to boost general community acceptance for innovation and research in Germany.

The Helmholtz Association is looking forward to the support of many domestic and foreign partners to ensure that preschools, kindergartens and primary schools everywhere become the natural habitat of 'Little Scientists'.



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mlynek
Präsident der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft