



Fördern durch Spielmittel e.V.

Toy Design and Inclusive Play

17th International Symposium, Workshop and Exhibition

● FÖRDERN DURCH SPIELMITTEL E.V.
IMMANUELKIRCHSTRASSE 24 // 10405 BERLIN

APPLICATION

17th International Creativity Workshop

“Toy Design and Inclusive Play”

Design and Development of Innovative Toys for People with Special Needs

The 17th International Creativity Workshop of the association “Fördern durch Spielmittel e. V.” (“*Support and Challenge through Toys*”) will be held from **28th February to 15th March, 2013**, in Altdorf – Rummelsberger Dienste in Bavaria. The aim of the international and interdisciplinary Creativity Workshop is to develop new toys for children and adults who are in need of special assistance. Great emphasis will also be put on the development of toys and play materials for senior citizens.

Togetherness – Integrative / Inclusive:

For two weeks, participants will be in close contact with people with disabilities, learning directly and practically from their skills and needs, and in addition becoming inspired by this process so as to view the users as equal partners in future development processes. In close contact and communication with the children and adults it will be possible to develop wholly new toys, which bring pleasure, are adapted to various different needs and in addition assist in the development of sensory, motor and communication skills.

Togetherness – Interdisciplinary:

The participants will come from different professional backgrounds. Designers, therapists, toy experts, teachers working with disabled children, careers, architects, people with special needs and students are invited to apply to participate in the Creativity workshops. Through this interdisciplinary composition the participants will also learn from each other and different professional approaches.

Togetherness – Intercultural:

The participants will come from different countries and continents. Their encounter will offer different views on function and production of toys, on handicaps and special needs, on integration / inclusion and participation. Living and working together offers the possibility of exchanging thoughts and including ideas from different cultural backgrounds into the development of toys.

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Project background

According to WHO estimates there are 330 million people with disabilities around the world, half of them children. International organizations, including UNESCO, the UN agency for Education, Science and Culture, have made it a priority to improve the situation of these children and adults and their social context.

Play is crucial for all children, helping them to develop skills and to learn patterns of behaviour. Also for adults with special needs, materials for play and activity are an important aspect of everyday accomplishment, affirmation and interaction with other people. Toys and equipment for keeping people occupied are also relevant for adults with special needs as well as for the elderly, in that they provide them with pleasure, self-esteem and interaction with other people, and make it easier to get through everyday life. "Fördern durch Spielmittel e. V." promotes these processes by developing new ideas for suitable toys within the framework of the Creativity Workshops. Since being founded in 1991 the non-profit association has led or coordinated a total of 16 Interdisciplinary Creativity Workshops in Germany and abroad, with each Workshop resulting in the development of many new toys or toy ideas.

We are convinced that new toys are best developed in conjunction with their future users – with the children who are going to play with them - since these are the real experts on toys. This user-oriented means of product development has often led to surprising toy ideas.

Our experience has shown that innovative solutions are found best when they have to meet the most exacting challenges. Toys for children and adults with special needs for their mental and/or physical development have to meet high demands. They have to 'really work' – otherwise the children cannot benefit from them. Therefore we hold the Creativity Workshops in facilities specifically for people with special needs to allow for an intense contact between developers and users during the design process.

Directly after the Creativity Workshop has come to a close, an interdisciplinary group chooses the most interesting toys. Emphasis is put on their pedagogic or therapeutic value and innovative character. These toys are then modified and copied and tested for three months by people with special needs. The organisers arrange for further development of the toys, with some of them appearing in published form as construction plans, while others are even further refined to be transferred into batch production, where possible in the sheltered workshops.

Over the years a broad national and international network of partners has been established - both of institutions and individuals - who are active on behalf of people with special needs. Today, the Berlin-based association "Fördern durch Spielmittel e. V." has members in a total of 27 different countries. The association receives support for its work in this area from the national UNESCO Commission.

The Creativity Workshops for 2013 will be run in cooperation with "Rummelsberger Dienste" – services and facilities for people with special needs at Rummelsberg. It will be financed by the Bavarian State Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Family Affairs and Women.



Toy Design and Inclusive Play •

The symposium, the practical experience visits to various institutions for persons with disabilities, and the places where the participants will actually work are situated in Altdorf and in Rummelsberg; the concluding exhibition of the workshops results will take place within the context of the "Sheltered Workshops' Fair" in Nürnberg (Nuremberg).

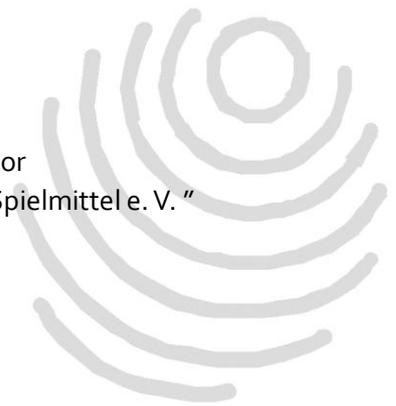
"Rummelsberger Dienste" offer persons with disabilities a variety of forms of support. These are provided in various parts of the district and have a good infrastructure with numerous schools, workshops, homes, day-care and residential institutions. The International Creativity Workshop will mainly be held in Altdorf and Rummelsberg.

Altdorf is a former university town (founded in 1575); the University was continued from 1809 in Nürnberg. The place then became a Teacher Training College, and for ninety years facilities for people with special needs have been located there. Rummelsberg as a suburb of Nürnberg was especially designed for people with disabilities, and it offers a wide range of facilities for them. It is an essential part of today's concept of Rummelsberger Dienste to open up to the city and society at large.

We invite you to apply to take part in the 17th International and Interdisciplinary Creativity Workshop "Toy Design and Inclusive Play".

Dr. Helmut Tautz
Board
"Fördern durch Spielmittel e. V. "

Siegfried Zoels
Managing Director
"Fördern durch Spielmittel e. V. "





PROGRAMME

Date:

28th February – 15th March, 2013

Place:

Germany, Altdorf near Nuremberg

Aims:

During the Workshop, participants will develop innovative toy ideas and produce models. At the end of the Workshop phase, the organisers will be responsible for the process of further development for the toys selected. Participants consent to the organisers being able to use their work (including models and drawings) within the terms of the agreement (see Appendix) for non-profit activities. The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will remain with the designer.

Agenda:

28th February, 2013

Arrival of the participants

1st – 2nd March, 2013

Symposium

Experts from various areas will present their perspectives based on research and practical experience and provide guidance in, for example, the life and work with people with special needs, on inclusion and integration, or the role of play and toys and creativity in social processes.

On the second day of the Symposium the participants and tutors will introduce themselves as experts from all over the world. They will report on their own various experiences and their activities as designers, toy developers, artists, therapists or having special knowledge in any other related field.

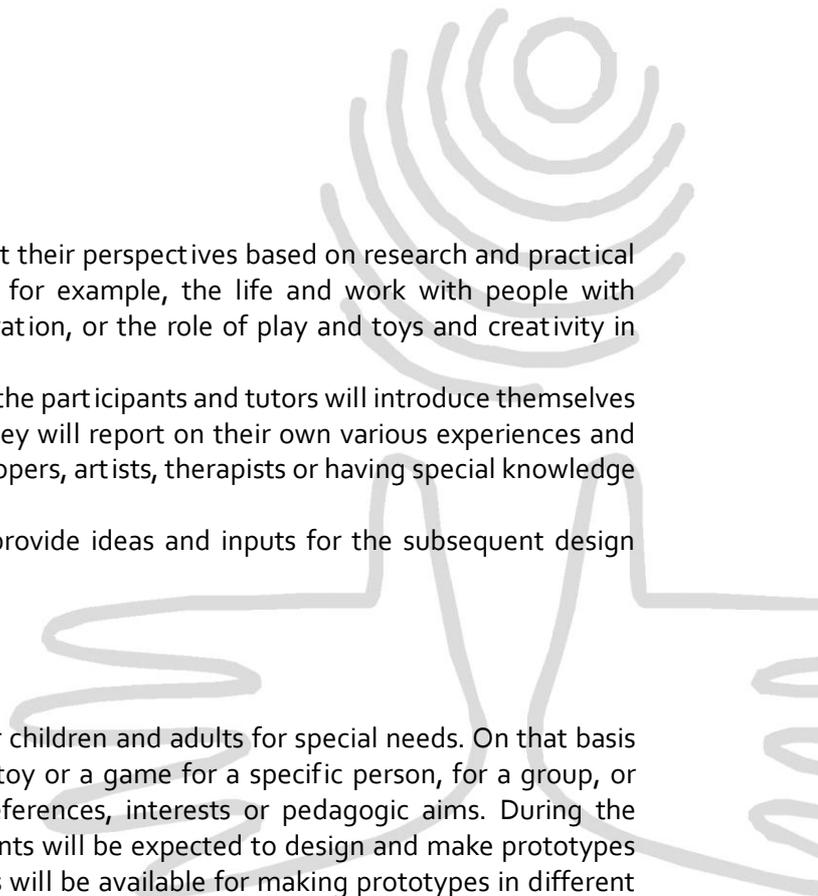
The symposium is also designed to provide ideas and inputs for the subsequent design work.

3rd – 13th March, 2013

Workshop

The participants reside in facilities for children and adults for special needs. On that basis they will develop their project(s) – a toy or a game for a specific person, for a group, or designed with regard to specific preferences, interests or pedagogic aims. During the course of the workshop, the participants will be expected to design and make prototypes of new toys. Equipment and materials will be available for making prototypes in different materials.

The design work itself is given special momentum by the close contact to the future users. The key aspect is here not their limitations but their possibilities: What are the people with special needs capable of? What do they enjoy? And how can this be transformed into a toy?





One further important aspect of the Creativity Workshop is the international and interdisciplinary exchange of experience it enables between the participants. Experienced tutors are also present to give advice and help where needed.

14th March, 2013

Presentation of the Work Results

The results of the Workshops will be publicly displayed during the "Sheltered Workshops' Fair" in Nürnberg and explained by their inventors – the participants in the Workshop. For the exhibition the children and adults with special needs, their family members, assistants and the relevant facilities as well as representatives of different institutions will be invited. At the "Sheltered Workshops' Fair" (14th – 17th March) various social organizations present their wares. The presentation and display of the results of the Creativity Workshop should serve to provide stimulation, to expand product lines and as far as possible to ensure that innovative ideas for toys are developed further in terms of their design and their production.

15th March, 2013

Departure of the Participants

Participation:

This is a worldwide call for applications. Twenty participants will be chosen to participate in the Creativity Workshop. Applicants could be, for example, designers, engineers, architects, toy developers, teachers and carers, therapists, psychologists, or child development specialists. Students within these areas can also apply.

Working languages:

English and German

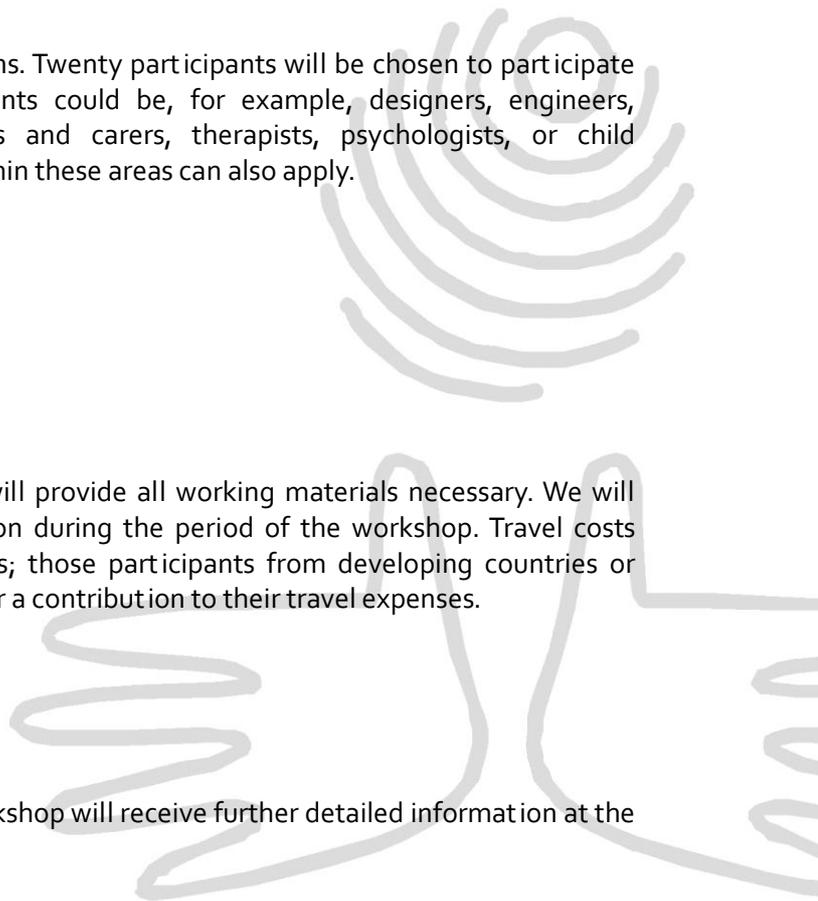
Costs:

There will be no workshop fee. We will provide all working materials necessary. We will also provide food and accommodation during the period of the workshop. Travel costs have to be borne by the participants; those participants from developing countries or Eastern Europe are eligible to apply for a contribution to their travel expenses.

Application Deadline:

17th December, 2012

The participants accepted for the workshop will receive further detailed information at the end of December 2012.





Application Materials:

- Application Form and Supplements (Appendix)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Declaration of Agreement (Appendix)

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