

Clippy Interview Allison 2022



1. How did you find out about the Clippy programme?

I was introduced to it by a good friend who also speaks German. We did not know nor consider it before he told us about it, and we did not speak any German nor had relationships to Germany.

2. What made you choose the Clippy programme for your child?

Our family has always been interested in different languages - and we understand that it would be much easier to learn a new language at a very young age. We were intrigued by the Clippy programme which has been set up in particular by the GSIS for those students who do not possess any or very limited German language skills. Also, the GSIS has an amazing reputation in the region since its founding in 1969.

3. How was the experience of the German school system different from others?

Compared to other school systems we experienced before, we found the German curriculum to be very caring, fostering independence and creativity. The students have enough time to explore and play together in guided and unguided social activities which helps them to build better social skills and relationships.

4. Could you please describe the experience of your onboarding and first weeks at GSIS?

The onboarding has been communicated very clearly so that we as a family would know what was going to happen at the beginning of the school year. We noticed quickly that the teachers have been so caring and how gentle they were towards the students.



5. How easy was it for you to communicate and integrate with the school and the wider community?

The school has been keeping us updated on the curriculum content and our daughter's progress frequently via different communication channels. There have been meetings and events offered which we happily attended, such as the 'Einschulung' and parent/teacher meetings. In addition, the parents in our daughter's class have created a WhatsApp group which we almost use daily to communicate.

6. How did your child experience and develop within the Clippy programme?

Our daughter made friends within the first few days and she has been looking forward to coming back to school every morning. We noticed in particular how her independence and self-esteem improved a lot. She acquired German language skills quickly and has been able to manage the majority of school work by herself.

7. How was your family's experience of the online learning programme?

The online learning programme has been executed very well and we also enjoyed being able to learn together with our daughter during these times.

8. What were your initial concerns about joining GSIS and the Clippy programme and how were these addressed?

Our initial concerns about the Clippy programme have been if our daughter would be able to acquire the needed German skills without a German background, and how we as parents would be able to support her. Our daughter has been learning German quickly, being embedded in a German environment - not only language-wise but also from a cultural perspective. The school work has always been clearly communicated and was presented at a level which also enabled us parents to be included and help.

9. Apart from the language, did you learn more about German culture?

Sure, being able to speak a language fluently is important, yet we really appreciate the fact that the programme includes so much more to learn about German customs and festive seasons. We could already notice all the benefits that come with a German education, such as independence, creativity and the care for others. In particular, we liked the 'Schultüte' at the 'Einschulung' in Ko1 (first day of school).

10. Could you please ask your child to let us know what they liked the most (quote)?

I like the Clippy class because I like to play and write. I like Ms Lena because she is very nice. I always play catch with Ryo and Lisa. I like German, I like school, and I am very happy every day!

11. Where could we support families in the Clippy programme further?

Overall, we are very pleased with the Clippy Programme and our daughter enjoyed every minute of it. The only suggestion would be to reduce the screen time for students, especially for work that would need to be accomplished at home.