

## Clippy Interview Lisa 2022



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

We were living in the USA before we relocated to Hong Kong. Initially we were interested in the English International Stream at GSIS since we were not aware of the German International Stream. Our daughter Lisa attended a British international school in the USA, so we thought the Clippy programme would be perfect for her to further improve her German.

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

Once we learned about the Clippy programme we knew it would suit Lisa well. We decided quickly to join. In addition to the German language skills we also wanted her to be able to experience German culture first-hand since she did not yet live in Germany.

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

We noticed that Lisa became much more independent after she joined GSIS. In comparison to a traditional British education the school puts a lot of emphasis on independence and responsibilities from an early stage on. Students are much less dependent on adults in their daily life at the school.

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

Everything was new to us as a family - a new city, new job, new school! The onboarding process for the Clippy programme was very smooth and we always felt very good taken care of whenever we had any questions. The school organised an orientation day for all families before the first day of school which was great. Lisa made new friends quickly and loved going to school every day.



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

My wife is from Japan and I am a German and we felt very welcome right from the beginning. The school provided all necessary information in English which made it easy for us to understand. There is a WhatsApp group for the parents of each class and we have shared a lot of updates among all parents and found it extremely supportive. We were invited to gatherings and birthday parties which helped us a lot to build a great community. We would have wished there would have been more gatherings at the school though which unfortunately was difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Lisa enjoyed the Clippy programme a lot, especially due to the small group size she could spend a lot of time with her teachers. Within weeks after joining GSIS she started to read and write in German and began initiating conversations with us in German which was heartbreaking. Her independence grew a lot which made her much more self-confident.

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

We found the programme to be structured and executed very well. With Lisa being at home we had more time to spend with her and the Clippy programme as well which made us appreciate it even more. The programme was interactive with animations, audio and video to make the school day more interesting. However, we were also released when she could return to the school to learn 'offline'.

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

We as parents and also Lisa did not have any concerns since we heard about the excellent reputation of GSIS. Whenever we had any questions or needed support, the team at the school was able to help us.

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

This is a fact that we really appreciated while being a part of the GSIS community. Students had the opportunity to celebrate various German specific holidays and experience German customs, such as 'Weihnachten', 'Fasching', 'Kindertag'. Lisa also began to listen to German audio books which are very popular in Germany such as 'Bibi Blocksberg'.

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

I like GSIS because I learned German by playing games with Frau Scharwei!

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

We have been very grateful for the support we received from the school especially during the challenging COVID-19 times. In future we look forward to more 'offline' engagements which would help in particular new and young families to build an even stronger connection and community.