

# CHILDREN need reliable spaces for development.



“ In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”  
From Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, “Best interests of the child”

**Y**oung children need safe spaces for development where they can be on a daily basis without developmentally dangerous restrictions and without fear. Healthy development, especially in the first years of life, requires reliability, a safe place, rhythm, regularity, trust, closeness and secure relationships.

Corona infections continue to pose little risk to young children. Much more serious are the effects of dealing with an unstable developmental situation accompanied by anxiety. What is needed for all of us is to actively reflect on the basic needs of young children.

#### What we can do:

- Give young children reliable and carefree spaces for development.
  - Build their confidence and strength through repetition and rhythm.
  - Perceive and overcome fears!
  - Sing and dance!
  - Give more hugs, warmth and closeness!
  - Maintain hand washing as a pleasant ritual and not as an act to eliminate danger.
  - Then rub in a “golden drop” of rose oil and notice how wonderful it smells.
  - Do meaningful things together: cooking, baking, cleaning, tidying up.
  - Rediscover the power of nature.
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- We are freer in the open air.
  - Animals can heal a child’s soul, promote movement, bring joy.
  - In the forest you can breathe deeply and become healthy.
  - Plant flowers and cress and watch them grow.
  - Finding “my” places, my tree, my stream, gives support.
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- Immerse oneself in intense play and sensory perception.
  - Play with mud, sand and water.
  - Laugh a lot.
  - Tell stories.
  - Experience little adventures.
  - Bake campfire bread, experience tests of courage and overcome resistance.



Child protection requires strong, confident, forward-thinking adults!  
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CARE I, an interdisciplinary specialist group\*  
for pregnancy, birth and early childhood  
of the Medical and Pedagogical Sections at the Goetheanum

\* of educators, social workers, nurses,  
gynecologists, pediatricians, midwives  
and therapists