

# Where I come from ...

Germany

80 Mio. inhabitants



Landkreis (District) Passau

185 000 inhabitants



# Passau City

50,000 inhabitants

University with 11,000 students



# Vilshofen



- 16,000 inhabitants
- 12,6 % immigrants
- 22 % single parents
- 12,3 % of under 15-year-olds receive social benefits, 47% single parents





# About Me

- Maths teacher and guidance counsellor at the local grammar school in Vilshofen
- Elected member of the town council (since 1990)
- Co-founder and chairwoman of the „Network for Families“ („Netzwerk FamilienLeben Vilshofen“)



# Netzwerk FamilienLeben Vilshofen e.V.

# Our Objectives

- To support all children from early age
- To create a positive and beneficial environment for children
- To accompany, support and empower families
- To improve parenting skills and raise awareness for children's needs
- To support immigrant mothers and children



# Family Mentors

- At present: 15 trained family mentors
- Welcome visits:
  - to all families with newborn babies in Vilshofen
  - welcome gifts and information
  - invite the parent to come to our centre
- Family mentoring programme for long-term support



# Reading Mentors/Coaches

- At present: 13 reading mentors in local elementary schools (for 20 hours per week)
- Individual support for children with communication disorders and reading difficulties

# FamilienTreff





# „FamilienTreff“ (FamilyClub)

- **Regular open consultations:**  
educational advice, children with special needs, migration matters, early childhood support, pregnancy consultation, health department, logopedrist ...
- **Information sessions**
- **Activities:**  
playing, cooking, crafting, knitting, theatre,...
- **BabyTreff (NurseryClub):**  
mothers with babies can get together, with a nurse present



REVIEW RACEWAYS  
CLASSIC RACING CARS  
*Faster than anything !!*

NEW  
AWESOME  
EYES

Zelltuch - Servietten  
fein  
-stuck  
-lagig



# The German Education System

- Preschool (children's daycare centers):
  - Age: 6 months to 6 years
  - Voluntary, usually fee-based
- Primary school:
  - Age 6 to 10
  - Children already receive marks
- Tripartite school system:
  - Hauptschule (the least academic, grade 5 to 9)
  - Realschule (grade 5 to 10)
  - Gymnasium (the most academic, „grammar school“, grade 5 to 12)
- Then: Vocational training or university education



# Adult Education

Volkshochschule – Folk High School

- Integration courses ( low fees when successful)
- Language courses (A2 – C2) with fees
- Costs may be covered by the job center

# Children in Germany in Daycare (2011)

| Children                         | Under 3 Years | 3 – 6 Years |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| No migration background<br>(65%) | 30 %          | 97 %        |
| Migration background<br>(35%)    | 14 %          | 85 %        |

# Educational Opportunities in Germany

|                            | Age group 20 – 24<br>without high school<br>diploma | Age group 20 – 24<br>with A-levels | Age group 15 – 64<br>without<br>professional<br>training |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| No migration<br>Background | 2,4 %   | 44,9 %                             | 16,2 %   |
| Migration<br>background    | 6,2 %   | 37,1 %                             | 44,5 %   |



# Challenges We Face

- Reaching out and getting in touch with especially those parents whose children need us most
- Reaching out and getting in touch with migrant families with very young children
- Cooperating with migrant parents at school (language barriers, conflicts)
- Inaccessibility of grammar schools for new immigrants due to language barriers