Media and Information Literacy in Kindergarten
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Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood

- Early Childhood: Young children aged from three to six
- Media consumption of children is widely discussed nowadays
- We know: Media influence does not start in school, but with birth
Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood

• The need for information and media literacy is increasingly important – even at a young age

• Children’s media use has to be guided to support a responsible, competent and critical handling
Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood

Two sides of media use:

- Risks
- Positive impact

→ enhance learning process and improve cognitive and linguistic skills
Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood

Information literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification of own interests</th>
<th>Searching and finding information</th>
<th>Use of information appropriately</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of information</td>
<td>Indexing and storage of information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICT–Literacy – Media literacy

Basic literacy

- Observing (Reading)
- Drawing (Writing)
- Counting (Calculating)

Basic computer skills

- Smartphone skills

Internet skills

Media literacy

Information literacy in kindergarten
Information Literacy in Kindergarten

• It does not really exist in Germany
• The focus in Germany still lies on the use of television
• The responsibility for media education lies in the hands of parents only
• 93% of children between three and five are attending kindergarten
Information Literacy in Kindergarten

- Education in kindergarten offers the possibility to combine MIL with aspects like
  - Health promotion
  - Physical education
  - Family activities
Information Literacy in Kindergarten

• A media hostile attitude is described as pedagogically irresponsible → children from low educational backgrounds make inconsistent experiences (Theunert & Demmler, 2010)

• Media education is part of the curricula of kindergarten, but you will not find any detailed information
Information Literacy in Kindergarten

• The work with media depends on the kindergarten

• Media:
  – Digital media ➔ Internet, Tablet- PC, PC, Smartphone, Digicam
  – „Traditional media“ ➔ Book, Journal, Newspaper
Information Literacy in Kindergarten

Questions in the context with MIL:

• Why do we need Information literacy?
• When does information literacy become interesting for children?
• When does the behavior of children to information change?
• When does an information assessment take place?
• What influence does media have in the social contest?
The Study in General

Research questions:

• *How do young children use media?*
• *How can media and information education be integrated into kindergarten curriculums?*
The Study in General

Different levels:

• Children \(\rightarrow\) significance of media for children, which media do they use and what do they do with them?

• Parents \(\rightarrow\) What media does the child use and what are the wishes from parents for media education?

• Nursery nurses \(\rightarrow\) their educational background for MIL, what do they do in the kindergarten?
The Study in General

• Study with children
  – Participant observation ➔ For getting a natural result what media are used by children
  – Puppet interview ➔ One possibility to get information in a playful way what children can do with media
The Study in General

Study with children

– Play for MIL:

• Consists of several stations, the child can reach by fulfilling tasks

• Stations are conducted by a storyline → Problem must be solved together with the interviewer
The Study in General

• Study with parents and nursery nurses
  – Parents: Online Survey, Interviews in order to compare the statements made by their children
  – Nursery nurses: Questions about their own kindergarten and media education → Does the kindergarten use media, what media do they use?, Do parent-teacher conferences deal with the topic etc.
First step: Online Questionnaire

• Survey for parents
  – as a preparation for children interviews
  – information about the media- and information behaviour of children and their parents
  – Information about wishes of parents
First step: Online Questionnaire

• Target group: Parents of children aged between one and six years
• Opening of this anonymous online survey for two months (June to August 2014)
First step: Online Questionnaire

- Shared through social media and parents of kindergartens
- 28 questions included
- Completed by 231 people

Questions:

- Which programs/devices are being used by children and for how long?
- How is the media usage of parents connected to their children’s information/media competencies?
Empirical Results

Age distribution

- 1 year: 5% (1)
- 2 years: 9% (2)
- 3 years: 14% (3)
- 4 years: 19% (4)
- 5 years: 24% (5)
- 6 years: 29% (6)
Empirical Results

Media most frequently used (Children)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books/e-Books</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smartphone/Tablet</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational toys (digital)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper/Magazines</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC/Laptop</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital camera</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Empirical Results

For what purpose does your child use the following media?

0 = exclusively for amusement; 100 = exclusively for educational purposes

Mean  Median

TV  Audio  PC/Laptop  Smartphone/Tablet  Educational toys (digital)  Books/e-Books  Digital camera  Newspaper/Magazines
Empirical Results

What medium does your child watch videos/programmes on?

- TV: 59%
- PC/Laptop: 18%
- Tablet/Smartphone: 23%
Empirical Results

Who should be responsible for introducing children to media?

- Parents
- Nurses
Literature

Thank you!

Maria Henkel (maria.henkel@hhu.de)
&
Dr. Sonja Gust von Loh
(gust-von-loh@phil.hhu.de)

Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf
Dept. of Information Science