



Intercultural Library JUKIBU in Basel

Geschichtenbaum – The Story Tree

The *Story Tree* is a key activity that makes the library a low-threshold meeting place. Established in 2007 it has been part of the regular programme of the library since then.

The project leader organizes at least 40 events per year for children, adolescents and families in about 25 languages. They also maintain contact with immigrant and neighbourhood organizations, schools and care institutions.

A part of the *Story Tree* events is always conducted bilingually – often with German as the second language. The goal of all events is to promote not only the first language, but also literacy in general. Adults can experience how important reading is for language acquisition, as they become aware of linguistic wealth, are able to make cultural comparisons and find easier access to local culture. However, above all, all listeners, big and small, experience the possibilities, value and impact of narration. They begin to search the shelves for suitable media, both in their native language and in the local language, as well as exchange experiences with others. The presence of animators, who are experienced in immigration, also supports informal contacts and exchanges during the subsequent get-together.

The animators continually train on a regular basis to test new forms of design, to think together about objectives and to update themselves if necessary. Sometimes the team tells stories in public places outside the library, such as in the old market hall (*Markthalle*). Again and again, multilingual children, adolescents or entire families appear as animators within the framework of the *Story Tree* programme. They are coached by our members and attract new audiences.

In general, the public visitors and the number of library users, have not only increased, but have also become more diverse. Many fathers take part in the Saturday events, German-speaking families with school-age children appear at the readings in French, and German-speaking grandparents come to events in a language that is spoken by their grandchildren.

The *Story Tree* has been financially supported by *Integration Basel* and *Basel-Landschaft* for several years, which guarantees its continuity. However, the high quality of the work would never be achieved without the commitment, experience and competence of the volunteers of JUKIBU from over 20 countries of origin.

Verena Labhardt, JUKIBU (April 2017)

Programme Geschichtenbaum on www.jukibu.ch

The Story Tree celebrates the Mexican Day of the Dead



The Story Tree in Kannenfeldpark

