

Intercultural library Zentrum5 at Bern

Meine Sprache. Mein Buch – My Language. My Book

The intercultural library at *Zentrum5* has a variety of media in 31 languages, both for children and adults. Among them are interesting bilingual children's books, e.g. German/Kurdish, German/Arabic, German/Albanian, which facilitate the learning of both languages. With the project *My Language My Book*, *Zentrum5* wants to contribute to promoting multilingualism in children growing up in bilingual or multilingual families. At the same time, it is keen to make its intercultural library even more widely known.

As part of the project, a team of volunteers from the intercultural library of *Zentrum5* will visit 5 Bern school classes in years 1 to 4. As a preparation, the *Zentrum5* contacts the respective teacher and inquires about the language skills of the students. As a result, *Zentrum5* assembles a selection of books in the different languages of the students as well as bilingual books for the class.

During the visit, the children will get an insight into the linguistic diversity with the help of a small guidebook on languages. At the same time, their curiosity and interest in other languages should be aroused and encouraged. The students then have time to browse the books. The children can borrow the books and take them home. In addition, they will receive a special library card, which allows them to borrow media in the intercultural library of *Zentrum5* free of charge. They receive a cotton bag with the *Zentrum5* logo and information about the project, the intercultural library and its activities for children and their parents.

The books can be returned *via* the teacher, although it is even better if the student takes the books directly back to the library, if possible accompanied by their parents. Then the child receives a small gift from the library - and of course can borrow more books and take them home.

The project *My Language My Book* began in January 2015 in the North District of Bern (*Nordquartier*), after which it was offered in other districts of the town.

The project has been a great success. All primary schools are interested and the teachers very cooperative. Numerous school classes have already benefited. An evaluation of the project will be made by the end of the 2017 and a continuation for 2018 is planned.

Brikela Andrea, Zentrum5 (October 2017)

More informations:

www.zentrum5.ch

