

## Press release

### Award for BENTELER day care center

- **The foundation "Haus der kleinen Forscher" (Little Scientists' House) has once again awarded the BENTELER day care center the seal of the same name**
- **Exercise and exploration are key pillars of the day care center's pedagogical concept**
- **BENTELER promotes the work-life balance of its employees**

Paderborn/Salzburg, July 18, 2018. Why does a fish swim in water? And who or what can swim anyway? The three- and four-year-olds attending the BENTELER day care center "Rohrspatzen" spend their days getting to the bottom of questions like these and many others. Playful experimentation and exploration are part of their daily routine. For this reason, the day care has once again been awarded the "Haus der kleinen Forscher" (Little Scientists' House) seal by the foundation of the same name.

To receive the seal, several prerequisites had to be met: It must be possible to follow up and document the children's exploratory activities. In addition, the educators must do their part. They continuously train in the field of exploratory and experimental learning. "We want to promote an inquiring and exploratory attitude in the children and give the boys and girls a chance to discover their own potential in scientific fields at an early age," confirms Claudia Leipe-Cyrkel, Director of the day care center.

The center has its own space for experimentation. "We have a great space where the children can work with a wide variety of materials in a playful setting. Using magnifying glasses, microscopes, test tubes or pipettes, the children can experiment with as little interference as possible," explains Claudia Leipe-Cyrkel. The pedagogical concept of the center focuses on movement and exploration. "We want to promote an investigative spirit in the children at an early age, because only the joy of learning and discovering can turn a little scientist into a grown-up scientist one day," says Leipe-Cyrkel.

For BENTELER as an attractive and innovative family company, economic activity is in line with corporate responsibility. Annette Brueseke, Vice President HR BENTELER Steel/Tube, explains: "We are actively involved in social and society issues at our sites. This applies in particular to Paderborn, the largest location of the BENTELER Group. With the BENTELER day care center "Rohrspatzen" we promote the work-life balance of our employees. This year, we can already look back on a ten-year existence."

*Photo: Radiant researcher faces in the BENTELER day care center "Rohrspatzen": Beate Wilper (left), zdi-Zentrum FIT.Paderborn, presented on behalf of the foundation "Haus der kleinen Forscher" (Little Scientists' House) the seal of the same name to Claudia Leipe-Cyrkel, Director of the BENTELER day care center "Rohrspatzen".*

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BENTELER International AG

Anne Frank

Communications Specialist

Salzburg, Austria

Phone: +43 662 2283-101044

E-mail: [public.relations@benteler.com](mailto:public.relations@benteler.com)

### **About BENTELER**

BENTELER is a leading global company that develops, produces and sells products, systems and services for the automotive, energy and engineering sectors. We are a family-owned firm now in the fourth generation. Our 30,000 employees at 144 locations in 39 countries are passionate about excellence in manufacturing and distribution - in close proximity and collaboration with our customers. Sales in 2017 amounted to 7,856 Million Euros. The three Business Divisions BENTELER Automotive, BENTELER Steel/Tube and BENTELER Distribution are organized under the strategic management holding company BENTELER International AG in Salzburg, Austria. With our technological expertise and strong focus on successful implementation, we develop solutions that make the difference – for customers, employees and society. And we make them happen.

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### **About the foundation "Haus der kleinen Forscher"**

The Berlin-based non-profit foundation "Haus der kleinen Forscher" is dedicated to early childhood education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Its aim is to prepare boys and girls for the future and enable them to act in a sustainable manner. Together with local network partners, the foundation offers an educational program throughout Germany, which supports teachers and other educators as they help kindergarten and elementary school-aged children explore, discover and learn.

### **About the zdi center FIT.Paderborn**

The abbreviation zdi stands for "Zukunft durch Innovation" (future through innovation), an initiative organized by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, which aims to inspire young people to pursue science and technology throughout their education in order to reduce the skills shortage in STEM fields. The zdi center FIT.Paderborn is run by the Business Development Association of Paderborn and is a network coordinator for the "Haus der kleinen Forscher" foundation in the Paderborn region. As a partner of the "Haus der kleinen Forscher" foundation, it coordinates local activities, offers workshops for educators and supports day care centers and elementary schools in their certification projects.