

Fondation Fleurs des Champs Best Day Care Centre - Southern Switzerland

Fondation Fleurs des Champs is one of Switzerland's most recognisable childcare providers. Over 570 families are currently enrolled in the foundation's services, and this number is expected to grow exponentially over the next year, with over 160 additional childcare spaces being created for August 2023.

As a parent, wherever you send your child to day care, you want to know that your child is in safe hands – ones that are kind, friendly, and devoted. Fleurs des Champs is a foundation that has been dedicated to child development since 1951, when it first opened as a care centre for ill children. Located in Crans-Montana, Valais, Switzerland, Fleurs des Champs has undergone numerous transformations since its founding, including a stint as a community centre for disenfranchised children. However, since 1996, the foundation has been operating as an administrator for day nurseries and child-care centres, for which it maintains eight structures for children aged from 0-12 years old.

Over 700 children are represented by the foundation, and they are guided through physical, intellectual, and emotional development, with their creativity and personal abilities always remaining the main priority. In essence, every effort is taken to ensure that children get to thrive within a community based on support. It is Fleurs des Champs' mission to create a 'warm, human environment, favourable to the development and respect of each child while encouraging exchanges with parents in the interest of the family.'

Since the arrival of its new Executive Director in August 2020, the foundation has become greater focused on achieving this mission through developing its expertise in childhood and the contemporary challenges that children face. The actions Fleurs des Champs is undertaking includes following trends; becoming active in new trends i.e., migration and integration; developing projects with communal partners; and developing internal projects. Quite simply, Fleurs des Champs aims to be 'a benevolent and supportive



expertise dedicated to children, parents, families and their challenges today.'

Over 110 employees – educators, cleaners, caterers, and secretaries – are all involved in bringing this mission to fruition. It is imperative that the staff both understand and uphold the high standards in place, as for Fleurs des Champs, children should be surrounded by unconditional love and acceptance. There is no room for intolerance. Moreover, the employees are judged based upon their hard and soft skills, with the later of which being a key focal point for the foundation. It notes that 'what you are counts more than what you have done.'

Through maintaining such a strong internal structure, the foundation has been able to successfully navigate a number of challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period, Fleurs des Champs was concerned with preserving its quality of service, despite the obvious stresses placed upon the employees, families, and children it serves. Henceforth, the foundation's strategy centred around taking care of its staff because it firmly believes that by doing so, its team will be able to fulfil their mission properly. As a result, Fleurs des Champs is then able to answer the needs of the children it cares for.

Due to the success of the foundation, it will be opening over 160 places for August 2023, meaning that more children will be able to acquire the resources needed for effective learning and development. Moreover, three additional structures are currently under consideration, with one being a child-care centre for hospital employees with irregular schedules. If this plan goes ahead, the new location will be equipped to provide around the clock care, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

To conclude, Fleurs des Champs states, 'we thank all our employees and partners for their collaboration, the parents for their trust, the children for their smiles which give meaning to our work.'

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