



Evangelische
Kirchengemeinde Bottrop



Child daycare center run by the Protestant church opens on Horsthof Strasse

Provision of childcare began on March 1. Daycare center with five groups can accommodate 100 children

Bottrop/Essen. The new daycare center at Horsthof Strasse 17 in Bottrop is not only impressive from an architectural point of view with its comfortable, light-flooded room concept, but also with cutting-edge heating and air conditioning technology: An eco-friendly system supplies the new daycare center with the necessary heating in winter and efficient cooling in summer.

The new child daycare center opened its doors on March 1. Stephan Patz, Managing Director of the municipal construction company GBB, is pleased: "With the exception of one door element in the vestibule, we were able to completely finish the interior," he reports. By the time the weather warms up in May, the outdoor facilities with terraces, sensory trails, playground equipment and Bobby Car race track should all be ready.

New daycare center significantly improves the availability of childcare in Kirchhellen

Stefanie Reich, Head of Elementary Education and Schools at Evangelische Kirche Bottrop (Protestant Church of Bottrop) is delighted with the eagerly awaited building, which considerably eases the critical childcare situation in Kirchhellen: "Solely on account of its size, equipment and very tasteful design, our new daycare center on Horsthof Strasse really is something special. Both the children and the team clearly already feel very at home here."

Space is ample, stretching across more than 1,000 square meters and two floors, and there are generously dimensioned storage rooms and even a room accessible from the outside for cleaning and storing sandbox toys – all very practical, but also far from being a matter of course or even standard.



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Designed with children in mind

Other highlights are the dirt traps, where children coming in from outside can get changed to avoid carrying sand and dirt into the indoor rooms. The building is entirely barrier-free and even has an elevator. A large glass floor enables the natural light entering the spacious hallway area through the skylight in the roof to reach the lower garden level, creating a cheerful atmosphere there too. And what is really special is that the skylight means the children can see right through all the floors to the sky. The floor-to-ceiling window elements in the group rooms also ensure plenty of daylight.

Sustainable building concept

The fact that heat protection and sustainability played a special role in the planning of the new daycare center will be evident come the height of the summer. “The green roof will significantly reduce heat influx in the summer and will also enable rainwater to evaporate instead of disappearing down the drain. All the windows can be shaded, and the specially coated glass of the skylight allows much less heat to pass through. This means the building is also well equipped to deal with the more frequent periods of heat that are to be expected in the future,” says developer Stephan Patz.

Innovative climate technology

This is also contributed to significantly by the cooperative project of Essen-based STEAG’s energy experts, who planned and designed the heating system and will also operate it. “The air-to-water heat pump uses the thermal energy in the outside air for heating without the use of fossil fuels. It is quiet, economical and environmentally compatible. In addition, the Waterkotte system can also provide cooling in reverse operation, extracting heat from the interior when it is hot and discharging it outside – but not through cold drafts here and there as is the case with air conditioning, but pleasantly and evenly by cooled water flowing through the underfloor heating system,” Monika Klement, Head of Origination at STEAG Fernwärme GmbH, explains.

Councilor Klaus Müller, responsible for technical matters on behalf of the city of Bottrop, emphatically endorses the use of innovative climate technology: “I am delighted that GBB as a municipal subsidiary is once again leading the way with an innovative and climate-friendly building concept!”



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Scientific support

The mechanical equipment of the heat pump also includes a large number of sensors and intermediate meters and is monitored remotely by students at the Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences (HRW) in order to be able to evaluate all of the system's key data at any time and to gain experience with the technology. The new daycare center is therefore also a pilot project, the results of which will help to successfully shape the local energy transition. Prof. Dr. Sylvia Schädlich from HRW has already supervised several such practice-based projects in and around Bottrop: "For students, these practical, science-based and socially relevant projects are an important building block in acquiring skills during their studies. They learn in practice what counts in professional life – and the university's links with companies and institutions in the region are intensified."

Project fits in with InnovationCity Bottrop

"This project fits in perfectly with InnovationCity Bottrop," says InnovationCity Managing Director Burkhard Drescher with conviction. "Unfortunately, heat pumps are often difficult to implement in existing buildings. Underpinning their huge benefit for climate protection in new buildings is therefore, in my view, very important. That is another step towards accomplishing the energy transition in Bottrop."

Together with all partners involved in the project, Gesellschaft für Bauen und Wohnen Bottrop, Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Bottrop and STEAG wish the daycare center and its children all the very best – may many young Kirchhellen boys and girls spend happy times there.

About GBB

Gesellschaft für Bauen und Wohnen Bottrop is the city of Bottrop's municipal housing company. Founded in 1940, it manages around 2,000 residential units that it owns itself, as well as commercial properties, daycare centers, garages and parking lots. In keeping with its social orientation, it also covers the housing needs of people requiring specific support on the housing market, with a particular focus both on the growing number of senior citizens and on families with a large number of children. Large sums are invested each year in maintaining and expanding the housing stock through modernization and new construction. Managing the portfolio in a professional and customer-focused way is just as much a matter of course for GBB as social responsibility and ecological sustainability.



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About Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Bottrop

Bottrop's Protestant church community Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Bottrop is the provider of ten large daycare centers spread over eight locations in the Altstadt, Eigen, Welheim, Grafenwald, Kirchhellen and Fuhlenbrock districts. What sets the facilities apart is their being specifically designed for the under-3s age group. In very small groups of up to nine children, the caregivers offer the children the scope to develop and flourish in a family-like environment. The children receive the best possible support from dedicated staff providing loving care for each individual child. With a staffing ratio of three employees per nine children, individual care is guaranteed.

About Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences

Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences (HRW) sees itself as a university of opportunities contributing to further structural change in the Ruhr area. Its focus is on computer science, engineering, mathematics, natural sciences and business administration. More than 6,500 students from all over Germany value the unique and, above all, practically oriented study programs. The university's strengths include its practical teaching, its research, and innovation. HRW is a regionally based university with an international outlook.

About InnovationCity Ruhr

In InnovationCity Ruhr | Modellstadt Bottrop, innovative ideas and solutions are being developed to meet the challenges of climate and structural change in urban areas. The original idea for this project came from the initiative group Initiativkreis Ruhr. The city of Bottrop then won a competition in 2010 and became Germany's first InnovationCity. Bottrop-based Innovation City Management GmbH was formed in the same year, and together with the city of Bottrop manages all processes in the project. Over a period of ten years, the goal was to halve CO2 emissions and enhance the quality of life. The closing balance of the model city is currently being drawn up.

About STEAG Fernwärme

As a regional energy provider, STEAG supplies private households, large customers and real estate companies in the Ruhr area with environmentally friendly district heating, mostly from highly efficient cogeneration. Per year, STEAG provides around 1.6 billion kilowatt hours of thermal energy – equivalent to the needs of more than 275,000 households – making it the largest district heating supplier in North Rhine-Westphalia. Find out more at www.steag-fernwaerme.de

About WATERKOTTE

WATERKOTTE GmbH is an expanding producer of innovative heat pump system solutions and automation. WATERKOTTE GmbH evolved from the pioneering work of its founder, Klemens Oskar



Waterkotte, who in 1968 developed the previously unknown heat pump method of heating. Based on the experience gained at that time, WATERKOTTE today develops holistic system solutions and sustainable supply concepts. The conviction remains: 50 years on, the company still trusts in the best and most environmentally friendly heating system as the heart of all developments – the heat pump. With output ranging from 1 - 1,000 kW as serial-produced individual units, WATERKOTTE offers the right heat pump for every construction project and the right solution for every challenge.

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