

A home from home

Childcare centre. Eveline Vonlanthen, the manager of the joint Eawag-Empa childcare facility, arrives a little later than planned: a four-year-old has taken a tumble and bumped his head. "Nothing serious," she says,

Childcare centre

At the childcare centre, a total of 33 preschoolers aged between 4 months and 5 years are looked after in three groups from 07:30 to 17.30. The centre is run by the "IG Kinderpavillon" association. Empa and Eawag make the new building opened in August 2006 available to the IG and also take on administrative responsibilities. In the allocation of places, priority is given to children of Eawag and Empa staff; their parents pay reduced rates. Two places are supported by the neighbouring company Givaudan for its employees. The children are looked after by 9 qualified carers, 4 trainees and 3 interns. The members of the IG serve on a voluntary basis. The centre is currently fully subscribed, with waiting times of 6–12 months for new enrolments. www.kinderpavillon.eawag-empa.ch

"but it must be sore – so I couldn't just run off." Happily, the boisterous band of children at the "KiPa" have so far been spared any more dramatic accidents. In 2007, one broken finger was the only serious case requiring the attentions of voluntary in-house first-aiders. The children clearly feel comfortable at the centre. Particularly popular are the activities in which all three groups participate, as these events make new interactions possible or bring together siblings who, as a matter of policy, are not assigned to the same group. The shared activities include singing, weekly forest days and, of course, the various parties which parents are also invited to attend.

There is plenty of space for the children to let off steam, not only in the woods or in the new garden around the centre, but in the building itself. Having got used to the wide play corridor, none of the carers would now like to go back to the nooks



At the Eawag-Empa childcare centre, it is often the fathers who drop off or pick up their children

and crannies of the old building. So does the team have everything it could wish for? Eveline Vonlanthen replies: "A few male carers would be good for the children." But the prospects of that are still fairly dim. "Oh yes," she adds, "and we've wanted a teepee for the garden for quite a while." ○○○

Green mobility

Eco-Team. In December 2006, Eawag set itself new energy goals, paying greater attention to transport. In 2007, we began the process of implementation:

► Eawag is taking all necessary measures to ensure that its electricity and heating requirements are progressively – and by 2010 fully – met by renewables and in a sustainable manner.

► All travel undertaken by Eawag staff is to be carbon-neutral..

CO₂ reductions and transport measures. The Kastanienbaum site recently celebrated the 10,000th kilowatt-hour of self-generated solar power. The new photovoltaic system – twice as large as its predecessor and with an annual capacity of 10 MWh – came on stream in the autumn of 2007. It was financed by CO₂ charges levied internally on air travel. These charges are also

used by Eawag to subsidize passes for staff using public transport. Compared with bonuses for non car users, this type of support offers the advantages of saving administrative costs and being tied to a specific purpose. As a result, many staff also use public transport for personal travel. In 2007, Ecodrive courses for Eawag staff who are still dependent on cars demonstrated how fuel consumption can be reduced by appropriate driving techniques.

Cycling: as attractive as ever. The pool of 50 Eawag bikes available for loan is heavily used. At Dübendorf, it was agreed with officials that bicycle stands will remain in place at Stettbach station until the construction of the Glattalbahn railway line starts; arrangements for the subsequent period are being worked out. The plans for a cycle path free of intersections and traffic lights are completed. In

this year's "bike to work" initiative, the Eawag teams – actively supported by members of the Directorate – once again improved on the previous year's results. ○○○

Thomas Lichtensteiger, with the Eco-Team
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The photovoltaic system on the renovated boathouse in Kastanienbaum has already generated more than 10,000 kWh of power. It was financed by internal CO₂ levies on air travel.