**Võru Kindergarten Okasroosike**

**Introduction**

Võru Kindergarten Okasroosike (in English it means Sleeping Beauty) is a small kindergarten providing childcare and basic education for children aged 1.6-7. The kindergarten has five groups. One of the groups is a nursery for children between the ages of 1.6-3 years. The other four groups are mixed-age groups and are attended by 2-7-years old.

Games, experiential learning, fairy-tales and dramatizations present an important part in kindergarten’s everyday life. The fairy-tale-like design, costumes, parties and events make the kindergarten unique. The kindergarten has a theatre room with necessary equipment, a small reading corner and a children’s dining-room. Children can take part in extracurricular activities and choose their hobby group: singing, folklore, dancing, art, football. In order to support the preschool children and prepare them for school a so-called King’s School also exists in the kindergarten.

There are 26 employees in the kindergarten, 15 of those are teachers and the rest of them represent a support personnel. All teachers have at least 3 years of experience in working with children, have a higher education and are constantly educating themselves.

**Location**

It doesn't take long to drive to Võru from the main Estonian cities: 3.5 hours from Tallinn, 2.5 hours from Pärnu and a mere hour from Tartu.

Võru is one of the most beautiful towns in Estonia. The town centre with its distinctive street pattern and lovely low wooden houses, will enchant you more and more with every step you take. The town's pearl is Lake Tamula with a promenade connected to the historical centre of the town through picturesque Katariina Alley. Situated right in the town centre is Võru's oldest and most attractive building: a former landowner's manor that now accommodates a state upper secondary school.

Võru has a friendly community. Collaboration can be carried out with the local library as well as with the youth centre. Volunteers have the possibility to join different hobby groups, participate in the trainings in the sports centre, take classes at the music school, etc. At the same time, we have many NGOs that involve volunteers in organizing events or contributing to the town's charity events. Kindergarten Okasroosike can be a guide for young people in order to find opportunities how to cooperate and carry out projects with different organizations.

**Benefits of volunteering**

* Experiencing pedagogical work
* Developing organizational skills
* Improving team working skills
* Learning about the Estonian culture and language
* Having the opportunity to learn to play the zither.

**Work tasks**

The volunteer helps the kindergarten staff with their daily tasks with the children. They can work with a specific age group or from time to time also support other groups, depending on their personal interests and abilities. Volunteers will never work alone but under supervision and guidance of kindergarten group teachers.

**The main tasks** are helping the teachers, participating in games or lessons with the children, preparing lessons and materials for activities. They are encouraged to introduce songs, games and other interesting aspects of their own culture and traditions. Moreover, this intercultural learning can consist of the preparation of festivals or special days (Christmas, Easter, and Independence Day etc) by teaching songs and dances. The exhibitions about their country or some other European countries would be very welcome.

Volunteers are more than welcome to join every activity we organise either for the children or only the staff members. Kindergarten Okasroosike has 55 years of history and nice traditions, like days with families, sport activity days, visiting theatres and concerts, hikes and excursions during spring and summer. In addition, together with staff members, volunteers can help to organise the Võru Christmas Fair, Võru Town Days and participate in the Folklore Festival as an interpreter etc.

**The working time** for volunteers will be 30 to 35 h per week from Monday to Friday. The schedule may vary; in some days it’s from 8 to 14 and other days from 12 to 17.30.

**The day in Kindergarten looks as following:**

* 07.00-8.30 gathering and playtime
* 8.30 breakfast
* 9.00-11.00 lessons, musical or sport activities, outdoor play
* 12.30 lunch and mid-day sleep
* 15.00-16.00 playtime
* 16.30 light afternoon meal and playtime

**Requirements for the volunteer**

The volunteer must wish to work with young children, has a positive attitude and is willing to assist. We’d love to welcome person to our team who is open to new ideas and is tolerant with children of special needs.