



Didactic Materials by Friedrich Fröbel:

- Ball (1st Gift to the child)
- The 2nd Gift: Sphere, cylinder, and cube.
Assembled here into a tower. This combination of the three play elements became a widely recognized symbol of Fröbel's pedagogy.
- Box with 1 cube divided into 8 sub-cubes (3rd Gift and simultaneously the 1st Building Gift)
- Box with 27 bricks that together form a cube (6th Gift and simultaneously the 4th Building Gift)
- Colored tiles, sticks, rings, and half-rings (e.g., for arranging beauty forms)
- Book with instructions for paper folding (Fröbel reception) Brodbeck, M.: Das Leben des Kindes ist Spiel (The Life of the Child is Play), Vol. 2 (2021)

Opening Hours of the University Library

Monday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

From September 29, 2025:

Monday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sunday: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Closed on August 9, September 20,
October 3

Illustrations

Portrait Friedrich Fröbels:

Frontispiece from: : Fröbel, Friedrich: Aus Fröbel's Leben und erstem Streben : Autobiographie und kleinere Schriften (hrsg. von Wichard Lange). - Berlin : Enslin, 1862.

(Friedrich Fröbel's gesammelte pädagogische Schriften; Friedrich Fröbel in seiner Entwicklung als Mensch ; 1,1)

<http://mdz-nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10762803-9>

Photo of Didactic Materials: © Fröbel Research Center at the University of Erfurt



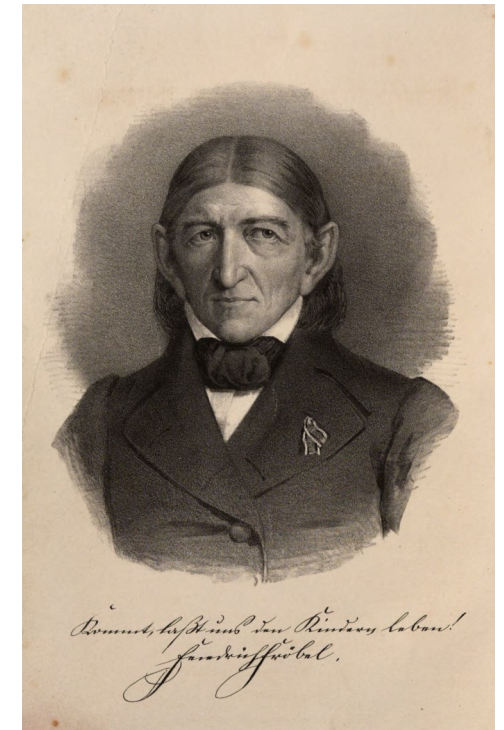
Fröbel-Forschungsstelle
an der Erziehungswissenschaftlichen Fakultät
der Universität Erfurt



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Friedrich Fröbel (1782 - 1852) *Educator and Innovator*



Exhibition

July 30 - Oktober 30, 2025

Erfurt University Library

On the occasion of the 11th Conference
of the International Froebel Society (IFS)

July 31 - August 2, 2025
University of Erfurt

Friedrich Fröbel (b. 1782 in Oberweißbach, Thuringia; d. 1852 in Marienthal, part of Bad Liebenstein, Thuringia) is among the internationally renowned German educators and innovator whose concept and practice of the *kindergarten* gained wide acceptance. The German word “Kindergarten” was adopted into many world languages, including English.

Fröbel’s pedagogy is based on close observation of the child and their environment, deep reflection of his own life and professional experiences, the study of various sciences, and a firm philosophical and spiritual grounding.

The **exhibition** is part of the 11th Conference of the International Froebel Society (IFS), organized by the *Fröbel Research Center* at the University of Erfurt’s Faculty of Education. It marks the beginning of a project by the IFS Germany Section to conceptualize and implement a permanent as well as a traveling exhibition on “Friedrich Fröbel and Fröbelian Pedagogy.” Both exhibitions align with the goals of IFS Germany, namely: “to demonstrate and promote the relevance of Fröbel’s pedagogy for contemporary education, teaching, research, and policy through broad engagement with his life’s work.”

Books and Educational Materials: The exhibition at Erfurt University Library presents original editions of Fröbel’s publications (first and later editions) from the holdings of the Fröbel Research Center and the University Library.

A special focus is placed on Fröbel’s Gifts and educational materials. Visitors are invited to explore

the concepts of Fröbel’s *Forms of Life, Knowledge, and Beauty* by working with paper themselves. Suggestions and instructions are provided.

Reception of Fröbel’s Work: During his lifetime, Friedrich Fröbel actively promoted his educational ideas through lectures, correspondence, and the institutionalization of kindergarten teacher training. This laid the foundation for a lasting legacy of reception that continues today. The exhibition gives voice to representatives of historical Fröbelian pedagogy.



Fröbel Locations in Thuringia: Those interested in Fröbel’s legacy can visit several *Fröbel museums and memorial sites* in Thuringia. Notable examples include the *Friedrich Fröbel Museum* in his birthplace Oberweißbach and the *Fröbel Museum* in Bad Blankenburg - the site of the first kindergarten.



The Fröbel Research Center at the University of Erfurt’s Faculty of Education: The Center holds the scholarly estates of Fröbel researchers Dr. Erika Knechtel (b. 1942) and Prof. Dr. Helmut Heiland (b. 1937).

Erika Knechtel, a trained kindergarten teacher, studied pedagogy and was the principal of the *Friedrich Fröbel Pedagogical School for Kindergarten*

Teachers in Weida, Thuringia (then part of the GDR). She co-edited the GDR’s edition of Fröbel’s collected works.

Helmut Heiland studied pedagogy, philosophy, and history. He worked as a university lecturer and, in 1975, was appointed Professor to the Chair of School Pedagogy and General Didactics at the University of Duisburg (later the University of Duisburg-Essen). He also founded and led the *Fröbel Research Center* there. One of his key works is the *Complete Edition of Fröbel’s Letters* (2008).

Through the Knechtel/Heiland research archive, the Fröbel Research Center at the University of Erfurt holds important documents of Fröbel’s reception and scholarship in both East and West Germany. This specialized collection serves as a valuable complement to the collections in the Fröbel Museum in Bad Blankenburg.

Vision: Educational practice always relies on teaching and learning materials. A university that trains educators draws upon a broad range of exemplary materials from all fields of pedagogical practice. In such a *Didactic Teaching and Learning Materials Collection* (“DILLSa”), Fröbel’s Gifts are indispensable.



Fröbel in a letter from 1828 to the philosopher
Karl Christian Friedrich Krause:

„[...] I wanted to form free, thinking, self-directed human beings.“