

The common hamster in environmental education

As a rather stealthy inhabitant of the ground, who hardly anyone ever sees and whose reputation as an obstacle to construction is regularly upheld in the press, it seems like a daunting task to inspire children and adults with enthusiasm for the common hamster and to sensitise them for its protection. But especially children are important multipliers in the protection of species. Their mind is still open for new ideas and more accessible for new information. With education, awareness for the common hamster and overall biodiversity can be raised starting at preschool age. The "Project Feldhamsterland" has developed an educational backpack filled with materials for this purpose. The included materials are tailored to fit the requirements on Education for Sustainable Development. By preparing and delivering the right quality and quantity of information, the new generation should have the tools necessary to make sustainable decisions. The backpack is designed for use both indoors or outdoors in the field. Getting children engaged in common hamster conservation does not only spread awareness to their families, but also the media, as the activities are often covered, increasing the effective range by far.

Nina Lipecki, Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung

E-mail: n.lipecki@dewist.de