

07 Interview – My Heroes

➤ **The children interview each other about their heroes from the media and real life. What qualities does a hero have? What do their heroes have in common? What are their differences?**

In the project "Interview - My Heroes" the children work with a recording device. They ask each other questions about their favourite heroes from television, books, CDs or computer games and about heroes from real life.

The answers are documented by means of a recording device and a one-time interview is created, which can later be played back to parents or other classes in the ECEC centre. A publication on the homepage is also possible.

An interview on the subject of heroes is an easy way for the children to familiarise themselves with the audio medium. It is also a great way to compare experiences from the digital world with the real world. The interview activity can promote teamwork, creativity and the use of language.

➤ **Preparation**

Prepare the children for the project "Interview - My Heroes" and discuss with them what you plan to do. Talk about the topic "heroes" in advance. This can be done by showing pictures from the Internet of media heroes and heroes from everyday life (the grandmother, the ECEC professional, the fireman, the policewoman, the nurse, etc.). Let the children talk about their experiences and collect the children's first opinions and answers. In the following project the children can now deepen their knowledge and experiences and keep them digital.

In order for the children to know what their task is, you can play a sample interview: You can record a short interview with a colleague or you may choose an interview suitable for children on the Internet, e.g. on YouTube.



Age: 5-6 years
Group size: flexible
Level of difficulty: ● ● ● ○ ○
Time and effort: ● ● ● ○ ○

Materials:

For implementation:

- Tablets, smartphones or recording devices
- Possibly microphones & Headphones

For follow-up:

- PC or laptop
- Possible programme *Audacity*

Area of Education:

- Literacy and communication
- Emotional and social learning
- Media education

Media pedagogical goals:

- Strengthening auditory awareness
- Process media experiences emotionally and verbally
- Understanding and critically reflecting on media messages and activities
- Playful media-creative appropriateness of social space and nature
- Dealing with media technology

07 Interview – My Heroes



Try out the recording devices (e.g. as an app on the tablet) that you will use for the “Interview - My Heroes” project before they are used by the children themselves and see if everything works properly. Familiarise yourself with the handling of the devices so that you can explain it to the children and answer questions. The children should also be allowed to test the devices beforehand. Let the children say their name and a few words about the topic such as “Today I’m going to interview...” and record them.

Project Implementation

Divide the children into interviewers/reporters and interviewees. A good idea is to ask the children which role they would like to have. The roles can be changed again later.

Before starting with the actual recordings, there should be a test run without a recording device. This way the children will notice that it is important how you ask questions. Questions that are only answered with “Yes” or “No” make the interview boring in the end. Therefore, open questions should be asked, where the interviewed children have to justify their opinion about their media heroes and/or real role models. Together you should think about which questions the reporter will ask the other children. Possible questions on the topic could be:

- What do you particularly like about your media hero? Why?
- Is there something you don't like about your media hero? Why?
- Which person you know is a special role model or hero to you? Why?
- What do you particularly like about this person?
- What are the common characteristics between your favourite media hero and this person?
- What are the differences between your favourite media hero and this person?

After the test run and all the questions you have collected, you start with the recordings. The reporter asks a question and a child answers. Then the next question is asked and the same child gives an answer. This is repeated until this child has answered all questions. Then the same questions are asked to the next child. Make sure that the interview is not too long, otherwise it gets too complicated and the children get distracted.

Postprocessing

Listen to the recordings together with the children and listen to the different opinions from the children. They can also explain again how the audio recordings were made and what experiences they have had. If you like, you can edit the individual interviews with an audio editing programme (e.g. Audacity) and combine them with music.

Learn more:

- *Module 4 – Children’s Media Heroes*
- *Module 8 – Audio*

Tip: Interviews can be based on a variety of topics that children find exciting. Modify this project according to your needs and record interviews with the children about their favourite leisure activities or their recent excursion.



Tip: In preparation for the interview, you could also let the children draw their media and real heroes. This can make it easier for the children to formulate their answers when answering the interview questions.



Photo credits: Paul Kramp

