

# 08 Stop Motion – My Hobbies

➤ **In a playful and creative way, children engage in their own hobbies and their media usage behaviour. What do I like doing in my free time? Which hobbies have something to do with media? What do I like doing without media?**

In the project "Stop-Motion - My Hobbies" the children work with the tablet and the app *Stop Motion Studio* (or a similar app). In small groups they talk about their favourite leisure activities and afterwards they create a stop-motion film of themselves.

Animated or stop-motion films have a great fascination for children. Their enthusiasm is heightened when it comes to making a stop-motion film themselves. In the process, they learn how animated films are made and their creativity and imagination are promoted. In addition, their own media preferences and experiences can be included, which makes the whole procedure very appealing.

## ➤ Preparation

Prepare the children for the project "Stop Motion - My Hobbies" and discuss with them what you intend to do. Talk about the topic "Hobbies and leisure activities". The children can talk about what they like doing/playing at home or outside. To encourage communication, you can ask them questions: *Why do you enjoy this so much? Who do you enjoy doing this with? Why do you like watching television?* etc.

This first contact with the topic already reveals the children's media use behaviour and the relationship between hobbies with and without media. The children themselves learn to reflect on how much time they spend with and without media.

To help the children understand what their task will be later, you can show them some simple stop-motion movies (e.g. on YouTube). It is best to show simple "animated layering films" made by children. This way you show an example that is very similar to the project presented here. This way the children's expectations of the implementation and length of the film are not too high. Make clear that it will not be feasible to produce an animated film in Disney quality and length.



<b>Age:</b>	4-6 years
<b>Group size:</b>	in small groups (max. 3 children)
<b>Level of difficulty:</b>	● ● ● ● ○
<b>Time and effort:</b>	● ● ● ○ ○

### Materials:

For implementation:

- Tablets or smartphones
- Tripod or fixed place for the tablet
- App *Stop Motion Studio* (or a similar app)
- Painting materials or pictures of leisure activities/hobbies
- printed photos of the children
- Possibly a printer

For follow-up:

- Possibly a PC or laptop
- Possibly a data projector

### Area of Education:

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

### Media pedagogical goals:

- Reflection on own media use
- Media grasp, understand and see through
- Experiencing changes or "manipulations" of reality through one's own actions with pictures
- Use media creatively
- Dealing with media technology

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Try out the tablet and the App *Stop Motion Studio*, which you will use for the project "Stop Motion - My Hobbies", before the children use them and see if everything works properly. Familiarise yourself with the handling so that you can explain it to the children and answer questions. The children should also be allowed to test the app and its various functions beforehand. Let the children, for example, make a short film where an apple "moves" across the table as if by magic. In this way, they will quickly understand the principle that a stop-motion film is made up of photos lined up one after the other.

## ➤ Project Implementation

The first step of the project is to bring together all materials for the stop motion film. Each child involved in the project will need a printed photo and corresponding photos, pictures from the Internet or self-painted pictures of their favourite leisure activities (with or without media). In addition, a large speech bubble cut out of paper is needed.

After all materials have been collected, the stop motion film can be produced. We suggest the following procedure:

1. Attach a large sheet of paper with tape to the floor (preferably coloured or with a landscape on it).
2. Mount the tablet on a tripod and point the camera with the app open at the sheet of paper on the floor (it also works if one person holds the tablet steady in one position all the time).
3. Now it goes step by step: One child takes one or two photos and another one moves the picture of the child step by step. Another child then moves the speech bubble into the picture in small steps. Other children slightly move the pictures with the favourite leisure activities into the picture and onto the speech bubble. After each "movement" a photo is taken.
4. Already in the app you can see how the individual parts move at the end as if by magic. Together with the children, check once again whether all the photos of the run-through have been taken successfully.
5. After all photos of a child's activities have been taken, repeat the procedure from step 3 with the photo of another child and his or her favourite activities. This can also be done on another day. Of course, the background picture and the speech bubble can be modified. This brings some variation into the film.
6. Finish the movie - Add titles, credits, transitions and some nice music to the movie.

### Learn more:

- *Module 3 – Insights into The Early Childhood Media World*
- *Module 7 – Stop Motion and Video*

**Tip:** In most stop-motion apps you can also print out the individual photos as a classic flipbook. This creates a wonderful analogue product that can be watched by the children in the group room over and over again. The flipbook becomes something very special as a gift to the children or parents.



 **Postprocessing**

Watch the film together with the children (e.g. via the projector on a screen) and let the children explain again how the film was made. The children can tell you what they paid particular attention to and what they enjoyed most. It is worth observing how the children worked together as a team.

Let the children tell you again about their favourite leisure activities. If the film is watched again at a later date, it is possible to talk about whether and why the children's interests may have changed.

**Tip:** A stop-motion film is not only a lot of fun to produce, but it is also a pleasure to watch the films over and over again. It is therefore a good idea to present such beautiful results to parents and grandparents via a screen at the entrance area of the ECEC centre. A publication on the ECEC centre homepage is also very effective.



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