

# CHILD RESEARCHERS AT THE TUHH

Science for young researchers



# TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PEOPLE

“The child researchers are here!” – the headline chosen by the TUHH at the start of the child researchers project at the Hamburg University of Technology in 2007. What began with 125 schoolchildren has, to date, inspired more than 5.500 children and adolescents between the ages of eight and 18 years from over 90 schools in the Hamburg Metropolitan Region.

Engineers, computer scientists and similar professions are some of the most sought after occupational groups. Many schoolchildren, including girls in particular, are often unable to identify with these fields without gaining experience of them and having the opportunity to form their own realistic opinion. The objective of the research-oriented child researchers project at the TUHH was, therefore, to get schoolchildren interested in the world of science and technology at a young age in order to awaken and encourage enthusiasm for careers in STEM subjects.

The child researchers project at the TUHH was founded by Gesine Liese and her husband Professor Andreas Liese, head of the TUHH Institute for Technical Biocatalysis. Since then, Liese and her team have been providing schools with experiment kits containing information on topics related to everyday life for individual courses. Projects such as

“experimentation and researchers”, in which primary school pupils experiment with different things every week in their classrooms and visit TUHH institutes, or the “junior campus”, which, in cooperation with companies, aims to inspire young people from years 7 to 11 to pursue a career in STEM subjects, are becoming more popular every year. The latest offering provided by the child researchers project is called Kniffelix – an online experimental platform for inquisitive everyday scientists.

What is the secret to the success of the child researchers project? For starters, practical experiments awaken enthusiasm for research before children and young people have the opportunity to experience first-hand how research into the same topics is carried out at the TUHH or how varied and diverse jobs in STEM subjects can be within companies.

” I am delighted with the success of the child researchers project. It shows how STEM subjects can be fun and how children's interest in technology and science can be awoken at an early age.

Prof. Dr. Ed Brinksma, President of the TUHH



5.500

Students since  
2007

91

Schools

**STEM** is a comprehensive term for subjects or professions related to the topics of science, technology, engineering and mathematics

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