For immediate release

Open House at Gretel-Furler Daycare Center Delights Around 600 Visitors

- **600 visitors learn more about new Gretel-Furler daycare center at Open House**
- **Creative tinkering and exploration stations let children discover and try out things**
- **Doors open to public after official welcome for daycare center families**

Oberkirch, Germany, September 30, 2026 – The Koehler Group officially introduced its new Gretel-Furler daycare center in Oberkirch to interested families and the public at large at a recent Open House event. Around 600 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to check out the modern premises for themselves and learn more about the educational philosophy that will serve as a basis for the center's activities. The event was intended for the families sending their children to the daycare center, Koehler Group employees, and families from Oberkirch and the surrounding region who are interested in sending their children to the center in the future.

Families of Daycare Center Children Warmly Welcomed

The afternoon started with a personal, heartwarming welcome for all the children who are already or will soon be going to the Gretel-Furler daycare center, as well as their families. Representatives from the City of Oberkirch, Konzept-e, and the Koehler Group officially greeted the families as they started their visit to the new facilities, all while underscoring how important it is for the company to make sure that families have excellent childcare options. The focus was particularly on the work–life balance of families and the way everyone involved in the project worked closely together to make it a reality.

After the warm welcome, the daycare center's doors were opened to the public. Many of the visitors took advantage of the opportunity to see the spacious indoor and outdoor areas and learn more about element-i and its unique pedagogical practices. In addition, a variety of tinkering stations proved to be irresistible to the young tykes at the event, who immediately started working with felt and wood to make their own exciting creations and try out their manual skills. Meanwhile, the center's designated toddler area focused on sensory experiences instead, so that the youngest visitors were able to touch and feel various materials and explore them with all their senses. "It's important to us that kids be the ones who choose to be active without pressure and get to do the things that interest them. And that's exactly what our visitors are experiencing today: Spaces and materials that pull you in and stoke your curiosity so that you'll try them out while giving children the freedom to explore things their own way," says KONZEPT-E Managing Director Waltraud Weegmann.

"The incredibly positive response shows just how important family-friendly options are for our region," says Frank Lendowski, Finance and Administration Director at the Koehler Group "With the Gretel-Furler daycare center, we've created a place where kids can feel right at home, learn by playing, and develop

their own individual skills and abilities. And at the same time, it's a way for us to provide our team members with an additional way to balance their work and family in a optimal manner."

There was also an additional surprise in store for the guests, as they were able to find out just how unique the center is in terms of its approach to food. The daycare center chef provided an insight into the careful thought that will go into preparing nutritious food for the kids, all while providing the Open House visitors with their own tasty fare.

Ultimately, this first Open House event represented the moment that the new Gretel-Furler daycare center officially became part of the community. "With this new care center, Oberkirch has not just expanded its daycare availability to make our city more attractive, but also provided an extraordinary example of how municipalities and companies can work together successfully for the good of their communities. By working together, we've created a modern daycare center where the children of our city can flourish in a warm and comfortable environment," underscores Department Manager Mathias Benz on behalf of the City of Oberkirch. The Koehler Group would like to take this opportunity to thank all guests, partners, and stakeholders for their interest and for the successful collaborative work that went into making the project a reality.

Caption: Anja Burger (Head of Education, Konzept-e), Mathias Benz (Department Head of the City of Oberkirch), Waltraud Weegmann (Managing Director of KONZEPT-E), Miriam Hager-Stork (Team Lead of the Gretel Furler Kita) and Frank Lendowski (CFO, Koehler Groupe) *welcomed around 600 visitors to the open house event.*

About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. Its business segments include paper, renewable energy, and logistics. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with two additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2025, and brings in annual revenue of around 1.059 billion euros. The family business works together with start-ups and technology partners extensively in order to drive new business models and future technologies.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler is a forward-looking investor in renewable energy projects that include wind power, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass. The Koehler Group is committed to generating, on an annual basis, more energy from renewable sources at its own power plants than is required for its paper production operations by 2030.

Find more information at: www.koehler.com

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