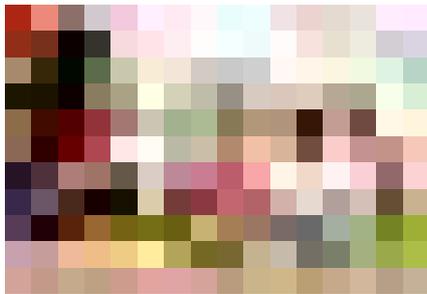


Child care



The early support of children in child day care facilities is an important contribution to equal opportunity. Children can establish relationships with their peers and benefit from educational programmes appropriate to their age. Educators will support and accompany them throughout this process. Through a variety of offers, including different pedagogical concepts, they encourage the children's social, emotional, physical and mental development in a broad and individual fashion.

Apart from the individual support for children provided by child care services, they are most often a prerequisite enabling parents to return or go to work.

Kita: A place for your children

The word *Kindertagesstätte* (**Kita** for short) is a collective term under which different forms of child day care are summarised. At a *Kita*, your children are supported and fostered by the educators of the respective facility, either the whole or only part of the day. Since there are various pedagogical approaches, the concept can vary from one *Kita* to another. Children from zero to three years of age are often looked after by the day. However, there are also *Kita* centres with groups of different ages. You can obtain information per facility and find out which concept is most suitable for you and your child.

Day nurseries: For children from 0 to 3 years

A German day nursery (*Kinderkrippe*) is a place where children under the age of three can play with other children of the same age. Since younger children need greater attention, they are looked after in smaller groups by qualified educators. Appropriate meals, naps and playing outdoors are all part of the programme. Most day nurseries are flexible about drop-off and pick-up times. Day nurseries are run by private and public agencies and their costs vary considerably and partly depend on the parents' income. Availability differs greatly by region.

“Kindertagespflege”: Flexible and comprehensive care

Kindertagespflege is a special form of child day care. It offers flexible, family-oriented and individual care by a designated caregiver. This especially benefits children under three years of age. These caregivers are called **Tageseltern** ("day parents") whose tasks are essentially comparable to those of childminders. In an agreement, your children will be looked after in the childminder's household, in your home or in other facilities. In some federal states, several childminders may also form a group and look after more than five children. These groups are called *Großtagespflege* and provide the opportunity for children to interact with their peers.

Kindergarten: Child care for children from 3 to 7 years of age

The German word for preschool is *Kindergarten* – perhaps you are familiar with it, since it is also used in other countries. In kindergartens, your little ones are usually looked after in the morning and sometimes also in the afternoon. In Germany, kindergartens are for children between the ages of three and seven. These institutions focus on satisfying the curiosity of young children, in addition to providing plenty of opportunity for play. Through experiments and play-based instructions teach them about nature and technology as they hone their language skills. In Germany, there are also bilingual kindergartens. Most of these offer English as the next most popular languages being French and Danish. Kindergartens are run by cities, church-founded associations and other private entities. As with day nurseries, prices vary widely. Some kindergartens have no fees at all, while others may cost several hundred euros per year, depending on the parents' income and the region.

The so-called **Gute-KiTa-Gesetz (Good KiTa Act)** [has](#) created standardised regulations in Germany since August 2019. Since then, not only families receiving social benefits but also families with a low income benefit from parental contributions.

The **Strong Family Checkbook** [and](#) an **information brochure** [for](#) advising families with low income provide a brief overview of the government support families can rely on.

Legal entitlement to child care

Since 1 August 2013, children from the age of one are legally entitled to receive care and support facility with a childminder. This entitlement does not depend on whether the parents are employed down in the [Kinderförderungsgesetz \(KiföG\)](#). Children over three years of age have an unre to child care in a *Kita* until they enter school.

How to find the right childcare

Step 1 – Starting your search: Start with the Internet. Local government websites usually provide e The respective youth office will provide you with information on all aspects of child day care. Here which form of child care is suitable for your child and the costs involved. Alternatively, there are als by and for families.

Step 2 – Making your selection: You can use the [family portal](#) to search for points of contact in the various local authorities and institutions to find out about child care options. Make an appointm meeting with the educators to get to know the concepts of the respective facility. Most facilities als sessions for parents and their children. Or ask your new neighbours, friends or colleagues if they c particular facility.

Step 3 – Registering your child: As soon as you have found a suitable child care centre, you may i at that facility. Child care spots are scarce in many areas. Many facilities have registration deadline times. Therefore, you may consider registering in advance. Since the requirements of the admissic vary from place to place, it is advisable to contact several institutions simultaneously. The local yo provide information in this regard.



(mailto:?
subject=Child%20care&body=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.make-it-germany.com%2Fen%2Fliving-in-germany%2Ffamily-life%2Fchild-care)

Information on the web

[www.make-it-germany.com/en/living-in-germany/family-life/child-care](#)
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)
Information about child care for children and young people
Familienportal: information regarding child care

KiTa.de website

Search for nurseries, creches and hoarding as well as job market for kindergarten teachers

Federal Employment Agency (BA)

Support possibilities for a better compatibility of family and work

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

ESF federal program "Stark im Beruf" supports mothers with a migration background in getting a j