



Welcome to the Kita!

Information for parents



Dear parents,

With this brochure, we would like to support your arrival in our country and give you an initial overview of our system of children's daycare. Each child should have the same opportunities for a good education. For this reason, we have set ourselves the target of improving the educational opportunities of all children in North Rhine-Westphalia. Early childhood education makes an important contribution to this in nursery schools and daycare. Nursery school (Kindertageseinrichtung), also known as "kita" is the first educational institution in North Rhine-Westphalia and, alongside day care, is attended by many children who are still below the age of three. By the age of three, almost every child has a place in a kita.

Kita is a childcare service in which children are both supported and nurtured. Particularly during the settling-in phase, kita can support your child in getting to know his or her new surroundings, making friends and learning the German language. Learning the German language is also important as preparation for attending school later on.

Convinced as I am that the teaching staff at our kitas in North Rhine-Westphalia will be able to accompany your child, providing positive developmental support, I would be delighted if you decided to accept this valuable offer of education and childcare and register your child.

Yours,

Joachim Stamp

Dr. Joachim Stamp

Minister für Kinder, Familie, Flüchtlinge und Integration
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Kita (Nursery)

- In the kita, children are supervised in groups, in an area specially designed for this purpose.
- A number of qualified nursery teachers care for your child and ensure that she or he can enjoy playing, laughing, jumping around, singing and making things.
- With their specialist knowledge, our nursery teachers provide the best possible support for your child's education and development.
- These institutions do not all have the same care hours. Many kitas are open from the morning until the late afternoon and will agree fixed times with you for dropping off and picking up your child.
- Supervision also includes eating together during care hours – this is usually breakfast, lunch and one afternoon snack.
- In the kita, there will be many group activities, but it is also particularly important to look after the individual needs and interests of your child.
- Collaboration between the nursery teachers and you is very important.

Registering with a Kita

- Children have a claim to a nursery place after their first full year of life. For children between one and two years old, this can also be with a child day care centre.
- Local child protection services (Jugendamt) offer advice on this and help you to look for a place for your child.
- When you have registered your child and received a place, you can exchange initial information at the admissions meeting.
- When a child attends a kita, a parental contribution is usually calculated. Your income is used to decide how high your contributions will be, or whether you will pay any contributions at all. The final year before a child starts to attend school is free for all children in North Rhine-Westphalia.
- Once your child has been enrolled, there will be a phase of getting used to the new surroundings.
- Children usually need a little time to get used to the day plan, the new surroundings and the new faces.
- During this time, the nursery teachers will communicate with you so that your child gets a good start and feels comfortable.

What's on Offer at the Kita

- First and foremost, your child will be able to play, paint, make things, sing and much more.
- Your child will get to know other children and develop her or his first friendships. In addition, she or he will also be in daily contact with the German language, which is very important for educational opportunities in Germany.
- There's a lot of diversity to what's on offer pedagogically. This helps support your child's learning process.
- The nursery teachers are by your child's side, looking after their needs and taking care to ensure that everything goes well for your child, who can then develop and realise her or his potential.

The Role of the Parents

- Collaboration between the nursery teachers and the parents is very important.
- Parents inform the nursery teachers of any important information about their child, such as health issues, allergies or important events which have had an effect on the child.
- With the nursery teachers, you can talk about your concerns, fears and problems with regard to your child's attendance at the kita or about your family's living situation.
- This information helps the nursery teachers to directly address the needs of your child.
- It is your choice what information you choose to reveal and what you wish to discuss with the nursery teachers. Your information will be treated with confidentiality in the kita.
- You can get to know other parents in the kita and even take part in many activities yourself. You can also share information and have advice sessions with the nursery teachers.
- The kita is willing to find an interpreter to translate the conversation if this is required.

Where Can I Find a Kita?

- There is a kita close by to every place of residence. Ask your local child protection services (Jugendamt).
- With the Kita Finder, you can look for a kita online via www.kita.nrw.de, or directly via www.kita.nrw.de/eltern/kita-finder/kita-finder-nrw.

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