



Elbkinder – Kitas Preschool Education



Pre-school or nursery bridge year – Information from the Parents' Council of the State Hamburg



Kita or pre-school class? The last year before starting the school: a decision-making aid for parents



The day nursery bridge year

What is important when choosing a primary school?

In Hamburg, parents are free to choose a primary school for their children. Hamburg education plans are the same in every school. However, individual schools can also develop their own profiles and pedagogical concepts. Schools can also differ in their offer for the afternoon care. In addition to these points, parents should consider the following questions when choosing a primary school:

- Whether the child would like to go to the same primary school a friend would go?
- Are siblings of the child or other children from the neighbourhood already attending a nearby primary school?

The Federal Parents' Network of Migrant Organisations for Education & Participation, abbreviated bbt.

The bbt is a network that supports parents' associations, and parents' initiatives, either taken by or taken for the immigrant parents.

The bbt aims to promote equal educational opportunities for all by informing, encouraging, and empowering immigrant parents and strengthening parents' right to have a say.

The bbt runs five regional offices in Germany. The Regional Office North is one of the five regional offices. It is being run by the Amfn e.V society and supports the following Migrant Parents' Networks:

- the Migrant Parents' Network, Hamburg
- the Migrant Parents' Network, Lower Saxony
- the Migrant Parents' Network, Bremen

From home to a day nursery & from a day nursery to the school



Information for parents

Important Links:



Parental contribution day nursery voucher



Parents' Guides Locations



Day nursery selection



Enrolment



Day nursery info



School Information Centre (SIZ)

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When can my child go to a day nursery "Kita"?

In Germany, children from the age of one can join a day nursery. However, if parents or legal guardians work, do an apprenticeship or attend a language course, the child can go to the day nursery earlier than the age of one year.

What do children learn in a day nursery?

In a day nursery, children nurture their curiosity, enhance willingness to learn, develop sense of personal responsibility and learn basic social skills. They find friends and learn to get along in a group. They develop skills for active participation in society, to have a say, to know their rights and to stand up for them.

What about children with special needs?

There are two ways to get an additional help at a day nursery center:

1. Early support for the children from 0 to 6 years
2. Integration assistance for the children from age 3.

Further information is available at:

www.hamburg.de/behinderte-kinder

Information on introduction 4,5-years old children:

Arabic



Persian



English



The way to a day nursery:

1. Information and orientation: multilingual information and explanatory videos on the process of arranging a day nursery in Hamburg are available at www.hamburg.de/kitaplatz and www.kitainfo.hamburg
2. Apply for a day nursery voucher (Kita-Gutschein): You can also apply for a day nursery voucher personally at the Social Service Center (Soziales Dienstleistungszentrum – SDZ). In most cases, additional documents are required.
3. How to find a place in a day nursery: you must look for a day nursery nearby, ask your neighbours or look at: www.hamburg.de/kita-finden. It's best to call a day nursery by phone or write an email.
4. You have found a place in a day nursery. What do you do now? Make an appointment with the day nursery and get to know what care services are being offered.
5. You like the day nursery: Discuss all questions in your mind with the day nursery team and register your child by signing the childcare contract.
6. Acclimatization at the day nursery (Eingewöhnung): the parents accompany the child in the day nursery several weeks until the child settles in and can stay alone at the day nursery.

The guides for the day nursery culture ("Kita Kultur-lots*innen") and the guides for parents ("Elternlots*innen") will help you to choose a day nursery.

What do you do if you can't find a place in a day nursery?

1. If you can't find a vacant place yourself, the district office will help you in finding one. You need a valid day nursery voucher for this. Support from the district office begins no earlier than three months before the start of the day nursery voucher.
2. In some cases, the search for a day nursery can take longer than three months. If the district office does not find a place within three months, it involves the competent authority from the social security office.

3. Prepare a list of refusals from the day nurseries you contacted for a place either by phone or an email. You must have at least five refusals on your list.
4. Then, make an appointment with the district office.
5. The district office then helps you in searching for a vacant place at a nearby day nursery. You should also keep looking yourself.
6. You will find further information under the following link:
www.hamburg.de/kita-finden/12450412/platznachweis

What is an interview of 4,5-years old children?

Day nurseries and primary schools work together, so that all children can have a smooth learning start. In Hamburg, we call it the "Four-and-half-year-old-children interview procedure".

To this end, all parents are invited to two meetings about two years before their child starts the school: the first meeting is held before the autumn holidays in the day nursery and the second meeting is held at the primary school.

These meetings with the parents are called introduction or interview of four-and-a-half-year-old "Vorstellung Vierinhalbjähriger". All parents must attend these meetings. This is in the Hamburg School Law.

Preschool or day nursery bridging year?

In Hamburg, a preschool class in the primary school and a bridging year in the day nursery, both offer extensive educational opportunities to prepare the children for the first grade. Hence, a year before the school starts, parents must take an important decision themselves on whether their child should continue to attend a bridging-year in the day nursery or go to pre-school class in the primary school. In addition to the concerns of the parents, wishes and interests of the child should also be considered.