

Information on child day-care services in Dresden for immigrant parents

Welcome to Dresden!

We hope you and your child are able to quickly settle into your new surroundings. Your child has the opportunity to attend a day-care facility (also known as a "Kita") or be looked after by a day carer in Dresden.

In both cases, children are placed in the hands of trained professionals who ensure they can play with one another, laugh, learn and come into contact with the German language. The latter is a pre-requisite for being able to keep learning successfully down the track at school.

The Saxon state capital Dresden provides a number of Kitas and day-care services. We therefore recommend having a personal meeting in order to select and apply for a Kita placement.

Our Main Counselling and Placement Centre at the Office for Child Day-care Services can arrange personal appointments. Upon request, we can also provide language assistance for the appointment.

During your personal consultation, the Main Counselling and Placement Centre

will also advise you of the following important issues associated with child day-care in Dresden:

- The steps to sign a care contract for a Kita placement
 - Calculating the monthly parental fee for a Kita placement
 - Applying for a discount or waiver of the parental fee
 - Supplying food for children at Kitas
 - Financial aid for lunch at Kitas
 - Handling illnesses at Kitas
 - Insurance protection and first aid at Kitas
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- **How can I arrange a personal appointment with language assistance at the Main Counselling and Placement Centre?**
 1. Please contact your refugee social worker (also known as social worker) to arrange a personal appointment with language assistance.
 2. Ask for the "Application for child day-care placement – Joint counselling and placement appointment with a community interpreter" form.

3. Complete this application form with your social worker.
4. Your social worker will arrange an appointment for you at the Main Counselling and Placement Centre, and specify your language assistance needs.
5. The appointment details will then be advised to you directly by your social worker via letter or email.
6. Attend your appointment. Your requested language assistant will be there too.
Bring your completed and signed application form with you to the appointment.
7. At this appointment, you will be able to choose a day-care facility or service suitable for your child and apply for a placement for your child.

General information on child day-care in Dresden

■ What types of child day-care services are available in Dresden?

Children under 3 are looked after at crèches (*Krippen*) or by day carers (*Kindertagespflege*). A crèche gives your child access to a larger group of children, attended to by a larger number of staff.

The day-carer service is a comparable service with an intimate, family-like approach. Maximum five children are looked after by a day carer.

Children are looked after at kindergartens from the age of 3 until they start school.

At a day-care centre (*Kindertagesstätte*, al-

so known as a combined facility), the crèche and kindergarten are operated in the same building.

From the time the children start school until the end of year 4, they can attend an after-school-care facility before and after school, and during school holidays. These clubs are usually located at the school itself.

■ How can I find a Kita placement?

The State Capital Dresden provides extensive information and a list of day-care services online.

The list is available at www.dresden.de/kitas, and allows you to search based on various criteria. The Main Counselling and Placement Centre and Dresden day-care counselling and placement centres can offer you personal advice on care services.

Day-care facilities and services also run open days, public tours and parent information evenings.

■ When and how do I apply for a Kita placement?

In Germany, children aged one and over have a legal entitlement to a care placement. As soon as you have moved to Dresden and registered your place of residence, you can apply for a Kita placement for your child. You may only do this once your child has been born. The application should be lodged up to eight months before the desired care start date. A care placement is generally arranged and reserved six months before the desired start date by

the day-care facility, carer or Main Counselling and Placement Centre.

■ **How much does a Kita placement cost?**

The costs for looking after your child are governed by the parental fee regulations, which apply uniformly across the city. The monthly parental fee amount is determined by the type and duration of the care provided. You will specify these for your child in a contract, known as the care contract (*Betreuungsvertrag*). Crèches and carer services cost the same. For more information, visit

www.dresden.de/elternbeitraege.

■ **What financial support can the City of Dresden offer me for the child day-care service?**

If you

- have more than one child,
- are a solo parent,
- or have/earn little money,

the monthly parental fee may be discounted or even waived for you.

You need to apply for this privilege. To do so, lodge your "Application for waiver and discount" at the Fees Office at the Office for Child Day-care Services.

Once your application has been approved, the financial support is generally only provided for six months. Therefore, it is important you allow enough time when lodging your new application.

If your child participates in the joint mealtimes at the Kita, you will incur addi-

tional catering costs.

You can apply to the Dresden Social Welfare Office for a discount on the lunch cost (from the "education and participation package"). This option is open to parents receiving the Arbeitslosengeld II unemployment benefit or social allowance, housing benefits, social welfare, children's allowance or benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.

For more information, visit

www.dresden.de/bildungspaket.

■ Important contacts for questions...

about Kita placements:

Office for Child Day-care Services
Main Counselling and Placements Centre
Breitscheidstraße 78
01237 Dresden
"Haus E", 2nd floor
Telephone (03 51) 4 88 50 51
kindertagesbetreuung@dresden.de

for your refugee social worker or adult migration counselling centre:

www.dresden.de/migration

about parental fees:

Office for Child Day-care Services
Fees Office
Breitscheidstraße 78
01237 Dresden
"Haus E", 2nd floor
Telephone (03 51) 4 88 50 80
kindertagesbetreuung@dresden.de

about discounted lunch allowances at the Kita:

Social Welfare Office
Education and Participation Division
Rathaus Dr.-Külv-Ring 19
01067 Dresden
2nd floor, Room 098 / 099
Telephone (03 51) 4 88 48 15
bildungspaket@dresden.de

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Central authorities' switchboard 115 – We love questions

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