

Why do children go to the Kita?



Five reasons

The time in the Kita is an important and educational phase for children, regardless of whether their parents work or not. Here are five reasons why your child should attend a nursery:

1 Learning by playing:

Children are curious, and the Kita provides them with daily opportunities to engage in various activities such as coloring, crafting, listening to music, singing, and climbing. These activities are fun for the children and promote their development.

2 Interacting with others:

Playing together with others strengthens children's social skills, such as teamwork and mutual respect. Additionally, in the Kita, children are encouraged to do typical household chores, e.g., setting the table and tidying up.

3 Preparing for school:

The nursery prepares children for school by helping them develop important skills that will support them at the beginning. Children are not yet learning to read and write, but instead focus on developing concentration, holding pencils properly, and following rules. These are the foundations for a successful start in school. Therefore, it is important that every child attends a Kita by the age of 5.

4 Learning German:

In the Kita, children speak German with their peers and teachers. Teachers sing and read in German, which means that all children learn the language. They do not lose their native language spoken at home, as young children can learn and master several languages simultaneously. Growing up speaking multiple languages has a positive effect on children's development.

5 Parents have time for themselves:

While their children are being looked after in the Kita, parents have some time alone, which they can use to go to work, attend language courses, go shopping, do housework, or attend appointments. Through regular contact with other parents at the nursery, you also have the opportunity to improve your German.

Additional Links:

Educational portal (Bildungsportal):

<https://bildungsportal-niedersachsen.de/fruehkindliche-bildung/kindertageseinrichtungen>



Information in different languages:

<https://bildungsportal-niedersachsen.de/fruehkindliche-bildung/kindertageseinrichtungen/informationen-fuer-eltern>



Regulation for the Implementation of the Lower Saxony Nursery Centre Act (Verordnung zur Durchführung des Niedersächsischen Gesetzes über Kindertagesstätten und Kindertagespflege, DVO-NKiTaG):

<https://voris.wolterskluwer-online.de/browse/document/155ede09-19d3-3ec5-9790-f638849b15a4>



https://www.mk.niedersachsen.de/startseite/aktuelles/aktuelle_erlasse_und_gesetze/niedersachsisches-gesetz-uber-kindertagesstatten-und-kindertagespflege-nkitag-203979.html



Regulation for Nursery Centres in Lower Saxony (Niedersächsisches Gesetz über Kindertagesstätten und Kindertagespflege, NKiTaG):

<https://www.schure.de/21130/nkitag.htm>



OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE

The MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen aims to improve the educational opportunities for children with migration backgrounds, in which parents play a key role. The network informs and supports parents with migration backgrounds to guide their children on their educational journeys.

It connects migrant organizations and parents with migration backgrounds. As of January 2025, there are eleven regional networks in Lower Saxony that work together to advocate for parents to regional and state lawmakers in politics, education, and administration.

Information about the Migrant Parents Network Lower Saxony and the regional networks:

www.men-nds.de



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Das MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen wird gefördert durch:



Niedersächsisches Ministerium
für Soziales, Arbeit, Gesundheit
und Gleichstellung

Das MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen wird unterstützt durch:



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My child is attending
the daycare center (Kita)

Making friends — Playing — Learning

Mein Kind besucht
die Kindertagesstätte (Kita)

Freunde finden — Spielen — Lernen

Englisch

What is a Kita and how can I register my child?

What does Kita mean?

Kindertagesstätte (Kita) is a daycare center for children:

Kinderkrippe: for children aged 1 to 3 years

Kindergarten: for children aged 3 to 6 years

At what age is my child entitled to go to a Kita?

In Lower Saxony, every child from the age of one and above has the right to attend a Kita. However, there is a shortage of places, so it's advisable to register your child as early as possible.

How do I find a Kita for my child?

You can look for one in your neighborhood and ask friends and relatives. Additionally, you can search online for Kitas near your home. If you do not find a Kita nearby, please contact the local youth welfare office (Jugendamt / Familienbüro).

How do I register my child for a Kita?

You can register your child via the online portal at any time or directly in the Kita. It is best to ask the Kita how their registration process is organized. Try to register your child about a year in advance or as early as possible.

Tip: Submit applications to several Kitas at the same time to increase your chances of securing a place.

Can I visit the Kita before registration?

Yes, you can visit the nursery and speak with the teachers. Please make an appointment with the Kita beforehand.

Can I choose which Kita I want my child to attend?

There is a shortage of spaces in nurseries, which means that you may not get a place at your first-choice Kita. The local welfare office (Jugendamt / Familienbüro) will offer you a spot at a different Kita if no space is available.

You can apply for a place in a Kita at the following link:

<https://service.niedersachsen.de/detail?pstId=8665042>



Important to know:

How many hours will my child spend in the Kita?

The times depend on the institution and the available space. Some nurseries offer care for the whole day, while others only until early afternoon.

Does my child get food in the Kita?

In most Kitas there are designated times for breakfast and lunch. Ask your Kita whether children need to bring their own food or if it is provided there. Most nurseries do not serve pork.

Does the Kita cost anything

Care in a Kita is free of charge for all children from the age of three and older until they start school. This applies for up to eight hours a day, five days a week. The amount you have to pay for children under three and for food depends on your income.

However, you can apply at your local youth welfare office (Jugendamt / Familienbüro) to get some or all of the costs reimbursed.

How can I participate in the Kita?

The educational system in Germany relies on parental participation. Cooperation between parents and teachers in the Kita is therefore very important. You are welcome to ask how your child is doing in the nursery, about their friends, or how you can support your child's development.

Furthermore, there are opportunities for you to participate in the Kita:

- You can attend parents' evenings, tea afternoons, etc.
- You can take part in Kita celebrations, craft afternoons, etc.
- You can have conversations with the teacher about your child's language development or before they start school.
- You can participate in the parent council.

Language Support

There is a conversation with the parents about their child's language skills no later than the beginning of the last year of nursery. If your child's German is not yet sufficient for school, the daycare (Kita) will support them in developing their language skills. Parents are informed about all results and steps taken to improve the child's German.

There may also be a conversation with the school your child will attend. This is not mandatory, and the Kita must ask for your permission first. This provides an opportunity to assess whether your child will need support in German at school, so that support can be provided from the beginning if necessary.

Additional Information:

<https://bildungsportal-niedersachsen.de/fruehkindliche-bildung/bildungsauftrag/bildungsbereiche/sprachbildung-und-sprachfoerderung>



Kitas are different. Here are some questions you should ask:

Where and how can I register my child for this daycare?

How long will my child be cared for?

When can I visit the daycare?

How does the daycare support my child's learning of German?

Should my child bring breakfast with them?

What do I need to pay, and how much?

Can the costs be reimbursed if we don't have enough money?