

Child daycare facility

- There are countries in which children start school before they are 6. In Baden-Württemberg children have the possibility of attending a **KiTa (Kindertageseinrichtung or child daycare facility) before they start school**. KiTa is the short form of the word Kindertageseinrichtung.
- A KiTa for children between 3 and 6 years is often also called a **Kindergarten** in German. A KiTa for children under 3 years is often also known as a **Krippe** in German.
- You have a **legal right to a KiTa place** for children from the age of one. Attending KiTa is not compulsory for children. It is voluntary.
- **Parents have to look for a free KiTa place themselves and register their child there.** A place in the KiTa usually costs something.
- It is the **task of the kindergarten teachers is to observe and support each child in his or her development**. The kindergarten teachers can tell the parents and give them tips. The kindergarten teachers are pedagogical specialists. They have completed training in the care, education and upbringing of children.
- In the KiTa, the children play and **learn through play**. In this way they also learn how to interact with other children and can make friends.
- All children in the KiTa are supported in learning the German language. This is known as language development. It takes place in the KiTa during the daily routine. If your child doesn't yet speak German, it can be given special help in **learning the German language** in the KiTa. This offer is known as **language promotion**.
- The children play and learn **together in groups**. Girls and boys play together in groups, independent of their native language and culture.
- My child has to be in the KiTa at **certain times**. I ask when I should bring and collect my child. I discuss with the KiTa who is allowed to collect my child.
- There is a **planned daily routine** in the KiTa from the welcome to collection of the children. It includes: activities, time for independent play, lunch, time to rest, etc.
- There are KiTa which are only open in the mornings. This is known as **Halbtagsbetreuung** (half-day care). There are also KiTas which are open in the afternoons as well. This is known as **Ganztagsbetreuung** (all-day

care).

- My child can get used to the KiTa and its times step-by-step, accompanied by the mother, father or another person. This is known as the **Eingewöhnungszeit**. At the beginning, the child doesn't need to stay as long as the other children.
- I find out what **clothes my child needs to wear** at what times.
- I give my child a snack to take to the KiTa every day – this is known as **Pausenbrot** or Vesper. It is a small cold meal. The Pausenbrot is eaten between breakfast and lunch, or between lunch and evening meal.
- The KiTa helps my child **in its development**. Even if attending a KiTa isn't compulsory, it is a good preparation for school.
- If a child has a developmental delay or a disability and needs special support in the Kita, parents can get in touch with a "**Frühberatungsstelle**" – a special advice agency.
- If the child needs a KiTa which offers special pedagogical support, then it can attend a **Schulkindergarten**. There the children are prepared for attending a general KiTa or for school. Parents can get information about the special advice agencies at the KiTa, etc.