

## Collaboration between parents and KiTa

- In Germany, many children go to **KiTa**. The professionals who work at the KiTa understand how to show and explain important things to children. Children can **learn new things** there and **find friends**. They also learn how to get on with each other and play with each other. During this time, the family can do other important things.
- The mother or father brings the child to the KiTa and collects it again. The parents can also name another person who can collect the child. Parents should ask about the **rules** that apply in the KiTa of their child.
- In many KiTas, the children have to arrive by a certain time. If the child arrives at the KiTa by this time, then the German word is **rechtzeitig**. But it is also important to collect the child **rechtzeitig** from the KiTa, i.e. by a certain time at the latest. Parents should ask the kindergarten teachers when they can bring and collect their child.
- Parents also need to make sure that their child has **suitable clothes** on. If it rains or is cold, your child needs a warm coat and proper shoes that are closed at the front (not sandals or flip-flops). It is helpful if the child can put on and take off the coat and shoes themselves. Sometimes the children go on a short trip outside the KiTa. The kindergarten teachers will tell you what the child needs to take with them on the trip. The children also **do crafts** in the KiTa. Sometimes they need to bring something from home with them for this.
- The parents should give their child a small snack called **Pausenbrot** or Vesper. The Pausenbrot is eaten between breakfast and lunch, or between lunch and evening meal.
- To make sure that you know the important things about the KiTa, pay attention carefully to the written information that you are given, and to what the kindergarten teachers tell you.
- When you register your child in the KiTa, you should ask the kindergarten teacher what your child needs to bring.
- Parents and kindergarten teachers should speak regularly together about the development of the child. These discussions are known as **Entwicklungsgespräche** (development meetings). In these meetings the parents and the kindergarten teachers talk about what the child has learned. They also talk about the best way to encourage the child to develop further.
- The parents of all children in the KiTa meet together at least twice a year with the kindergarten teachers. This is known as the **Elternabend** or **parents' evening**. You as parents are able to get to know other parents and discover a lot about what is happening at the KiTa.
- You can also ask questions.
- During the parents' evening, the parents of one KiTa group choose two parents to be parent representatives, known as **Elternvertretung** or **Elternbeirat**.

- They have a lot of experience and can answer many questions. All parents can contact them with ideas or if they have any problems. The parent representatives will then speak with the kindergarten teacher or with the head of the KiTa. The parent representatives also help other parents if they have questions or problems.
- In the KiTa there are also many events and celebrations. The kindergarten teachers or the parent representatives invite the parents to these events. If parents want to, they can offer to help, bring something to eat or contribute other ideas.
- If parents are unsure, if they have any questions or if there is a problem, they can contact the kindergarten teacher of their child, or the parent representatives. They will be able to help the parents further.