

Collaboration between parents and school

- Parents and teachers work in **partnership to bring up and educate** children.
- This means: Parents and teachers are responsible together for bringing up children. They are also responsible for making sure that the child is able to learn well. Parents and teachers have different tasks in this issue. It is important that they speak to one another regularly so that they can carry out their task.
- In contrast to the KiTa, at school the parents usually need to make an appointment if they want to speak to their child's teacher. They telephone the teacher or write an email/a letter, to ask for an appointment. The parents then go into the school for the meeting. If a teacher wants to speak to the parents, they will either write to them or telephone them. Sometimes the child is also present during the **meeting with the parents**.
- Some schools have a parent-teacher meeting day known as an **Elternsprechtag**. This means: You can have a short meeting with many of your child's teachers at the school on one specific day. You usually have to **register in advance** for these meetings.
- In the meetings, the teacher tells the parents about the child's behaviour in the school as well as how and what it is learning. The teachers often ask the parents to support them in making sure that the child learns better. The parents can ask teachers about anything they like and also ask them for help. The parents can also tell the teacher how the child learns at home.
- Parents also need to make sure that their child arrives at school in time and ready to learn. They give the child everything that it needs for the school.
- At school the children receive **homework** from the teachers. These are tasks in which the pupils should practice again the things that they have learned in the school. In a Ganztagschule (all-day school), the children usually do their homework in the school already. Homework is compulsory for every child. This means: All children have to do their homework.
- Parents need to make sure that the child has a place where the homework can be done at home.
- Parents should observe whether their child is doing their homework. However they should not help the child. The teacher will then know what the child still needs to practice.
- Parents should tell their child that it can do many things itself. The child can and must do its **homework on its own, without the help of the parents**. The parents should give their child the responsibility for this. This means: Your child should make sure without your help, that it has done the homework completely and properly.
- As parents, you should ask your child what it is practicing at the moment. Allow your child to tell you what it is learning at the moment.
- The teachers will make sure that the children learn all the important details during the lessons. During the

lessons, the teachers tell the pupils new things or repeat things that the children have already learned. This is sometimes a great effort for the children. A **school lesson** usually lasts 45 minutes.

- Children can ask the teachers in the school if they do not know something, cannot do something or do not understand something.
- At school there are many rules for children and parents. These are written in the school rules, known as the **Schulordnung**. The school rules explain, for example, how the pupils must behave at school, what is allowed and what is forbidden.
- The school rules also state what parents need to be aware of, if their child is sick or cannot come to the school.
- At least twice a year, all the parents and the teachers meet during a **parents' evening**. The parents are invited to the parents' evening by the parent representatives or sometimes the class teacher. The parents' evening is known as the Elternabend or also **Klassenpflegschaftssitzung**.
- At the parents' evening, parents and teachers get to know each other and are able to discuss the children. The parents find out important information, they can ask questions and they get to know the other parents. This is why it is important for the parents to go to the parents' evening.