

## **Daycare for children – using a childminder to look after your child**

In Germany, there are different possibilities for parents who need someone to look after their child during the daytime. They can send their child to a nursery known as a Kindertagesstätte (Kita for short) or they can send their child to a childminder. This is known as Kindertagespflege in German.

The childminder may be a woman or a man and will usually look after five children at the most. They do this either in their own home, in specially rented rooms or in the home of the individual parents. Several parents can also combine forces and look for a larger children's group together.

For many children, it's good when the daycare is structured like family life. The childminder is their fixed person of reference. They also quickly develop relationships to the other children. The childminders make sure that the food they offer the children contains important nutrients, and that it tastes good. They place great value on promoting the children's development and focus on the same development programmes as the Kitas.

In Baden-Württemberg, people who want to work as childminders and do not have a pedagogical training need to do a special training course. The Jugendamt (youth welfare office) also inspects the rooms in which the childminder looks after the children. They must be suitable and safe for children (e.g. with power socket protection). Only then will the childminder receive a "Pflegerlaubnis" which allows them to look after other people's children.

The childcare can be organised privately or via the Jugendhilfe (youth welfare service). This affects the costs of the childcare. With private childcare, the parents negotiate the costs directly with the childminder. If the service is organised via the Jugendhilfe, parents usually pay the same fees as they would for a Kita. The Jugendhilfe pays the childminder directly for material costs.