

Parental involvement in nursery school

Your child is now going to nursery school. What was that like when you were a child? It has certainly changed a lot since then. The concept of how younger children are looked after may also be very different in Germany from the country where you grew up.

We want to give you some tips to help you engage as parents in the nursery school and help your child pass happily through this stage of life.

HOW DO NURSERY SCHOOLS WORK IN BERLIN?



You can have a say

As parents, you can contribute to the nursery school, get informed and get involved.



You have a shared responsibility for child-raising

According to the Berlin Law on Child Day Care, nursery schools should “educate, raise and look after” children. You as parents remain responsible for the upbringing of your child. It is best for your child when parents and the nursery school work together.

WHAT DOES OUR FAMILY GET FROM MY BEING INVOLVED IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL?



Your child will enjoy going to nursery school.

Nursery school is an important part of your child’s everyday life. Your child will be all the happier to go if they see that you are part of the nursery school and like to get involved.

If you help out at the nursery school (for example, by bringing tasty food for the group breakfast), your child will be proud of you.



You receive information

You will know what is going on at the nursery school and will get new information in good time.



You will get to know other parents

You can exchange views with other parents, perhaps even using your mother tongue. You can receive information and tips from parents who have been living here for longer.

HOW CAN I NETWORK WITH OTHER PARENTS?



Meetings or video chats with other parents

Get to know the other parents in your child’s group better!

Take a couple of minutes whenever picking up your child to chat with the other parents. Arrange play dates for your children.

Exchange contact data and stay in touch.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



Parents' evenings

Go to the regular parents' evenings.

At the parents' evening, all the parents of children in a nursery school group meet their teacher. You will receive plenty of information there.

Tell the nursery school management in advance if you do not have a good command of German (yet). Ask others to speak slowly. Or bring someone with you to interpret.



Parents' representatives

You can get elected as a parents' representative.

As a parents' representative, you have a mediating function between parents, staff and management.

You ensure a trusting relationship where information is mutually exchanged and solutions agreed together.

In large nursery schools, you take part in the parents' committee, made up of the representatives of all the groups.



Parents' advisory council

If the funding organisation operates several nursery schools, an overarching parents' advisory council can be formed at the parents' request, for which each parents' committee selects a member.

Nursery school committee

In nursery schools of more than 45 children there is a nursery school committee. It consists of parents' representatives, staff representatives and a delegate from the funding organisation.

At the nursery school committee, questions of staffing, closing hours and the pedagogical concepts are discussed.



BEAK and LEAK

As a parents' representative, you can engage at a district or state level: in BEAK (the district parental committee for nursery schools) and LEAK (the state parental committee for nursery schools).



Nursery school fundraising association

You can become a member of the nursery school fundraising association. It carries out projects to support the children at the school, for example by setting up a playground.

You can also get involved with ideas, active work or donations.

If there is no fundraising association at your nursery school, you can found one together with other people who are interested (parents, partners from the neighbourhood).



Helping with and organising parties and trips

Why not help when the nursery school plans activities? For this you do not need an "official" position nor to be able to speak perfect German.

Examples of such events: bake sales, summer fairs, trips, themed days, reading projects. You can help, for example, by bringing salads or drinks, making music with the children, decorating the nursery school, coming on trips as a supporting parent, reading out loud to children (in your mother tongue).



WHAT CONCRETE RIGHTS DO WE HAVE AS PARENTS AT THE NURSERY SCHOOL?



Right to information

You have the right to receive regular information about your child's development.

If you have questions or need to get in touch, you can arrange a meeting with our staff or management at any time.



Right to transparency and involvement

You can take part in helping your child adapt to nursery school and later – on prior agreement – participate in the daily activities of the nursery school group.

You can be involved: the nursery school should support shared activity by parents and children. You can take part in excursions and parties.

You can have a say: the nursery school must involve parents in decisions, above all when these are connected with costs (for example, additional sports provision that requires a fee).

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