**Child Care in Germany**

All children in Germany are entitled to get a place in a kindergarten from the age of one year up to school age which is about six. Because the demand is higher than the supply, in some cases other possibilities have to be considered. For instance child minders and in case of the University of Siegen the nursery „FLEXI“ and the crèche „Krabbelstube“ for student’s kids.

**Day nursery - Kindergarten, Kindertagesstätte (Kita)**

In Germany there are different kinds of child care facilities. In a kindergarten children from 3 to 6 years normally attend half a day without lunch. A Kindertagesstätte (Kita) includes lunch. Children from 4 months to six years are supervised in mixed groups the whole day. Various organisations offer child care commissioned by the municipal administration but not every Kita offers childcare for toddlers. For example the protestant and catholic churches and other welfare organisations run child care in their kitas.

Fees in all institutions vary depending on the parents income and the place. Low-income families are not asked to pay fees. Usually Kitas also charge an additional fee for lunch.

Advance notification is required as early as possible and there is no guarantee for receiving a place in the kita of your choice. For further information it is necessary to get in touch with the Kindergarten oder the Kita. [Link](#)

**Child minder - Tagesmütter**

If there are not enough places in the Kita the alternative option is a child minder.

The child minder (Tagesmütter) looks after a limited number of children (max. 5) in a family atmosphere in her/his own house or in rented rooms which are specially prepared for children. They have to be certified by the municipal administration to run private childcare. Child minder offer care on an individual and flexible basis. Fees vary depending on the parents income and the place. For families from abroad, fees also depend on the type of visa or residence permit.