

## Why do children go to the KiTa? Five reasons

The time spent in the KiTa is an important and educational phase for children, whether the parents are working or not. Five reasons why it is worth taking your child to the KiTa:

**1 Learning by playing:** Children are curious by nature. The kindergarten offers new kinds of activities daily, such as painting, handcrafting, listening to music, singing, climbing and building. Children enjoy these activities and develop rapidly.

**2 Interacting with others:** When children play with one another they strengthen their social skills, such as cooperation and respect. In kindergarten, your children are encouraged to learn how to take care of typical household tasks and activities, for example how to set the tables or how to tidy up.

**3 Preparing for School:** In KiTa children are impacted with important skills that will help them start well in school. The children must not have to read and write but learn to keep to rules and regulations, concentration skills and how to use pen and paper. These form the base for a successful school attendance. Therefore every child should go to KiTa at least at the age of 5.

**4 Learning German:** In KiTa the children have the opportunity to speak German always while playing or interacting with other children and their teachers. The teachers sing and read books with them in German. By so doing they learn the language faster.

**Children in nursery school age can learn and have a good command of several languages at the same time. That is why it is better for children to learn to speak German in the KiTa and at home, your mother tongue. This is even good for their development.**

**5 Parents have time for themselves:** While the children are being taken care of in the KiTa, the parents are having their free time: Time to go shopping, time to do household chores; the time can also be used for language courses or work. The KiTa can also be beneficiary to you, that is, by learning the German language while interacting with the teachers and other parents every time you bring your child to school.

## Our Children, our future

The MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen aims at improving the educational opportunities of children of migration background. The parents play key roles in it. The network supports the migrant parents so that they confidently encourage and support their children to succeed educationally.

The network consists of migrant parents, migrant organizations, intercultural initiatives, parent clubs and -initiatives of migrant communities. Eight networks in Niedersachsen work together so that the request and needs of the parents are brought with one strong voice, to the notice of the decision/law makers in politics, building and management at the regional and state level.

**You can find more information  
about MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen  
and its Regionalnetzwerke:  
[www.men-nds.de](http://www.men-nds.de)**

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Das MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen wird gefördert durch:



Niedersächsisches Ministerium  
für Soziales, Gesundheit  
und Gleichstellung

Das MigrantenElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen wird unterstützt durch:



Niedersächsisches  
Kultusministerium

**amfn**<sub>e.V.</sub>

Ein Netzwerk der  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
Migrantinnen, Migranten und  
Flüchtlinge  
in Niedersachsen (amfn e. V.)



[www.men-nds.de](http://www.men-nds.de)



## Nursery school (KiTa)

## Learn – Play – Strengthen skills

## What does “KiTa” mean?

“Kindertagesstätte” (KiTa) is a day care centre for children.  
For children from 1 to 3 years (Krippe)  
For children from 3 to 6 years (Kindergarten)

### At what age is my child entitled to go to a KiTa?

In Niedersachsen, every child as from 1 year old is entitled to attend a day care centre.

### How do I find a KiTa for my child?

You can search for it in your neighbourhood or ask relatives, friends and neighbours. You can also search on the internet. If you do not find a KiTa nearby, please turn to the local youth welfare office.

### How do I register my child in the KiTa?

You can enrol your child at any time in the KiTa. Make a request at the Kindergarten on how the registration is organized. Do it as early as possible, at least three months or even a year before your child starts.

**Tip:** Submit several applications to different KiTas at the same time. By so doing you increase the chances of securing a vacant place for your child. You will be informed as soon as there is a vacant place on phone or in writing.

### Can I get to know the nursery school before registration?

You can take a look at the nursery school or day care centre and make acquaintance with the teacher. Make an appointment with the headmaster/headmistress.



## It is important to know:

### How many hours a day will my child spend in the KiTa?

It depends on the capacity of the facility: There are spots for the whole day as well as just for the mornings or the afternoons.

### Does my child get food in the KiTa?

In most of the KiTas there are separate times for breakfast and lunch. Make request at the KiTa in order to know if you will provide your child with a lunch box or the KiTa provides food. Most nursery schools pay attention to special food like pork and provide alternative to pork.

### Does the KiTa cost something?

Parents contribute monthly to the KiTa for food and maintenance. The amount you pay depends on your salary. The KiTa can be free of charge if you earn low income. Currently, the final year in the Kindergarten is always free of charge in Niedersachsen. The new government of Niedersachsen plans Kindergarten to be free as from summer 2018.

### How can I participate in the KiTa?

The educational system in Germany depends on the participation of the parents. You are expected to participate actively and to support your children. That is why the cooperation between parents and teachers is very important. Therefore, you can take active part in the KiTa's activities:

- Communicate with the teachers regularly to be informed on the development of your child
- Attend parents evening, parents lunch, and parents afternoon
- Take part in feasts, festivals and handicraft work, etc.

## All KiTas are different, so it is important to ask the following questions:

Where do I get a registration form to register my child?

Where should I submit the registration form?

How many hours a day would my child stay in the KiTa?

When can I come and inspect the KiTa?

Should I provide my child with a breakfast box?

Are there parents-children associations in the KiTa?