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Childcare — Nanny, Afterschool Care and Costs

Childcare options in Germany: nannies, afterschool care, and full-day programs with cost information.

Deutsche Begriffe: Kinderbetreuung | Tagesmutter | Hort | Ganztagsbetreuung | Betreuungsgeld | Sonderausgaben | Kitabeitrag | Kindertagespflege

Forms of care and costs

Form	Age	Cost
Kindertagespflege (Tagesmutter, up to 5 children)	0–3	according to state and income
Kita / Krippe	0–6	Kitabeitrag (some states: last year free)
Hort / Ganztagsbetreuung	school	fee + meals

The **Kitabeitrag** itself depends on the state and income — the right to a place and the application at the Jugendamt is described separately in the article Kita.

Tax deduction — Sonderausgaben

From **2025 onwards**, you can deduct **80% of care costs** as **Sonderausgaben**, maximum **€4,800 per child per year** (from a cost ceiling of €6,000). Conditions:

- child **under 14 years old** (or disabled),
- there is an **invoice** for the care,
- payment **non-cash** (bank transfer) — cash **is not** accepted.

Enter the deduction in your annual Steuererklärung, in the Sonderausgaben section.

Support with low income

With low income, the Jugendamt exempts you from the fee (with Bürgergeld/Wohngeld/Kinderzuschlag). Regardless of care costs, you are entitled to Kindergeld, and in the first year after birth Elterngeld. If rent strains your budget, also check Wohngeld — this is a housing allowance.

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