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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

Childcare Options in Germany

Tagesmutter / Tagesvater (Kindertagespflege)

- Care in small group (max. 5 children) with a qualified person at home
- For children aged **0-3 years** (sometimes up to 6)
- Flexible hours, personalized care
- Costs: **0-600 €/month** (depending on city and income)
- Arranged and subsidized by the youth office (Jugendamt)

Kindergarten (Kindertageseinrichtung)

- Legal right to a place from **age 1 year**
- Full-day (7:00–17:00) or half-day care
- Costs vary widely: **0-700 €/month**
- **Free of charge** in some states (e.g., Berlin, Hamburg for final kindergarten years)

Hort (Schulkindbetreuung)

- For **school-age children** (6–10 years)
- Afterschool care (approx. 13:00–17:00)

- Lunch, homework help, activities
- Costs: approx. **50-259 €/month**

Full-Day School (Ganztagschule)

- School with afternoon program (until 16:00-17:00)
- Often **free of charge** (lunch only approx. 3-5 €/day)
- Not available at all schools

Costs & Subsidies

Who Pays Less?

- **Bürgergeld recipients:** Childcare fees covered completely
- **Low-income earners:** Cost coverage through youth office possible (§ 90 SGB VIII)
- **BuT benefits:** Lunch in kindergarten/aftercare subsidized
- **Sibling discount:** Many cities charge less for second child

Application for Cost Coverage

- 1.** Submit application to **Jugendamt**
- 2.** Provide proof of income
- 3.** Approval usually valid for 12 months

Tips

- Register your child **early** (waiting lists!)
- Tagesmutter as alternative if kindergarten place unavailable
- Employers can provide childcare subsidy (**tax-free** up to 600 €/year)

--- As of March 2026. All information without guarantee.