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## Kita — Kindergarten in Germany (How to Secure a Place)

How to enroll your child in kindergarten in Germany. Where to search, costs, and when to register.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Kita | Kindergarten | Krippe | Tagesmutter | Kita-Platz | Kitabeitrag

## Kita — Kindergarten in Germany

### Types of Childcare

Type	Age	Description
<b>Krippe</b>	0-3 years	Nursery
<b>Kita/Kindergarten</b>	3-6 years	Kindergarten
<b>Tagesmutter</b>	0-3 years	Childminder at home (smaller groups)
<b>Hort</b>	6+ years	After-school care

### ⚠️ **PROBLEM: Shortage of Places!**

In major cities (Berlin, Hamburg, Munich) there is a CRISIS with Kita availability. Register your child as early as possible — even **one year before planned start!**

### How to Search for a Place?

#### 1. Online Portals

- **Kita-Navigator** (each city has its own)
- Hamburg: [kita-informationssystem.hamburg.de](http://kita-informationssystem.hamburg.de)
- Berlin: [kita-navigator.berlin.de](http://kita-navigator.berlin.de)

## 2. Direct Contact

- Call/email Kita in your area
- Ask about waiting lists
- Leave your contact details

## 3. Employer

- Some companies have contracts with Kita (Betriebskita)
- Ask your HR department

## How Much Does Kita Cost?

Depends on city and income:

- **Berlin:** FREE (since 2018!)
- **Hamburg:** Free from 5 hours daily, additional hours charged
- **Munich:** €0-500/month depending on income
- **Other cities:** €200-700/month

## Financial Support

You can apply for a Kita subsidy (Kitagutschein) at Jugendamt if you cannot afford full fees.

## When is Kita Open?

Typically: 7:00 AM-5:00 PM or 6:00 AM-6:00 PM Closed: 3-4 weeks during holidays (Schließzeit) + public holidays

## Documents Required for Registration

- Child's birth certificate
- Child's registration (Anmeldung)
- Vaccination record (Impfpass)

- Medical examination certificate (U-Untersuchung)

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