

# Childcare for Children from Age One: Family Day Care

## Kinderbetreuung für Kinder ab 1 Jahr: Kindertagespflege



Playing and learning together with other children in a small group.  
Being safely and regularly cared for by a well-trained childminder.  
This is family day care.  
This is where children feel good.



In Germany there are two official, state-regulated options for childcare: parents can take their children either to a childminder (*Tagesmutter*) or to a kindergarten (*Kindergarten*).

The care provided by a childminder is referred to as family day care (*Kindertagespflege*).

The main difference between the two options lies in the size of the group: a childminder looks after no more than five children, whereas kindergarten groups are larger.

Almost all children from age three attend kindergarten. Younger children are looked after in a day nursery (*Krippe*) or by a childminder. For smaller children it is better if they are looked after in groups containing only a few children.

*“Leaving our child in the hands of a childminder was a good preparation for school.”*

### Taking time for parental responsibilities

Parents have many responsibilities. They may be in work or looking for a job or training. They keep their apartment tidy and care for their family. Living in Germany, they know it is good to learn German and attend courses. For all these things parents need time during which their children are in good and dependable hands. Then they do not need to worry about their children and know that they are all right.

*“Our childminder took care of our older son (four years) and our younger daughter (one year) in the same group – we liked that a lot.”*

### Education and play for children

Children want to play. They want to learn and grow. Children at play learn everything they need for their future lives. Childminders (*Tagesmütter*)

support and encourage them. It is good for your child to learn to speak German, because then it will get along better in Germany. Through close contact with other children and the childminder, children can learn the German language easily.

*“Because of the small group, our childminder could address the children’s needs and parents’ wishes in a very individual and flexible way.”*



## What is a childminder (*Tagesmutter*)?

At the childminder's, children can play and learn. They are well cared for while their parents do other important things. All childminders have attended special courses to become qualified childcare providers. They have a permit from the authority responsible for children (the Youth Welfare Office – *Jugendamt*) and are regularly monitored and checked. Their premises are inspected too. Childminders enjoy helping children to develop and they steer them with valuable ideas. They also prepare older children for going to school. To children, the childminder means dependability and safety. Each childminder cares for a small group of no more than five children and pays attention to the wishes of all the children and their parents.



## What does a normal day at a childminder's look like?

In the morning, the parents bring their children to the childminder. Usually, the day starts with having breakfast together. Afterwards, the childminder plays and sings with the children.

She fosters the children's language development, encourages them to learn and goes outdoors with them. Here the children learn important things, such as the traffic rules, and encounter nature and the environment. While playing inside, they develop skills and competences.



They learn everyday procedures. They eat together with the childminder and take their midday naps. The childminder also changes the children's diapers. In the afternoon, the parents come to pick up their children. A childminder has the same responsibilities as those

performed by staff at a kindergarten. The children feel good and enjoy having fun together with other children and developing themselves through new experiences.

*"Our son quickly formed a stable and trusting relationship to his childminder and liked going to her."*

## Where can you find a childminder (*Tagesmutter*)?

The official bodies and authorities (Youth Welfare Office – *Jugendamt*; Special Service – *Fachdienst*) put you in touch with childminders. The staff there are the people you should contact, as is the case if you need a kindergarten place. All children in Germany have the right to care and education and are entitled to visit a childminder or kindergarten, even if their parents do not have a job.

## What does childcare cost?

The amount parents must pay for childcare can differ slightly according to region. The amount depends on the parents' income. If the parents have little money, they do not have to pay any charges. In some regions childcare is free of charge for all children.

**Please contact your local authority (Youth Welfare Office – *Jugendamt*; Special Service – *Fachdienst*) for more information.**

*"To us as parents, it is a good feeling to know that the German state and authorities make possible such dependable childcare."*

Further information \_\_\_\_\_

[www.bvktp.de/info](http://www.bvktp.de/info)



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