

## My child is attending the kindergarten (KITA)

Depending on the age of your child, there are different possibilities of childcare in Saxony:

crèche (Kinderkrippe)	0-3 years	} alternatively a child minder can give care
Kindergarten (KITA)	3-6 years	

When your child turns 3 you have a legal entitlement to a kindergarten place. That means all children are allowed to attend a kindergarten. The conditions to get a place in the crèche are different. This place is depending on capacity and whether the parents are working or not. If parents are working and do not have enough time to care for their child the whole day long, it is more likely that they'll get a place in the crèche.

To attend a crèche or a kindergarten is very positive for immigrant children because it is a good way to learn the German language!

### What happens in kindergarten?



In kindergarten the children are looked after by professional nursery teachers/ educators. Anyway there are different types of concepts (e.g. Montessori Kindergarten, Waldkindergarten...). They all have in common, that the children are together in groups. Sometimes these groups are same aged, sometimes older and younger children are together. You can give your child to kindergarten from morning to afternoon. Every day they do an after-lunch-sleep. The educators play games with the children, read to them, sing and dance and sometimes there will be excursions. The children are supposed to have a holistic education there and give a try to many different things (body, social relationships, communication, art, natural sciences and maths). So – bit by bit – they are well prepared for school.

The aim is that the children feel comfortable, make friends, play and learn as well as find security and safety.

In addition the educators look for every child's development and observe if there is any conspicuity. They talk about these things with the parents. The parents are very important and are expected to take part in the daily kindergarten routine. Children with limitations will be integrated, not excluded!



### Meals

Depending on the institution, children eat a second breakfast in kindergarten, a lunch and in the afternoon a „Vesper“. Lunch is mostly provided by the kindergarten. For breakfast and “Vesper” children should bring along something.

### Funding

Attending kindergarten is mainly funded by the state. Anyway parents have to do a co-payment. Single parents or those who have more than one child in the same kindergarten will have to pay less. If parents earn too little or nothing (e.g. as a student), they can file an application to the youth welfare office. They will take the costs then. Also the lunch has to be paid. With this it is also possible to file an application to the youth welfare office. If parents choose a certain private kindergarten, they will mostly have to pay it by their own.

### Pre-school time/ transition to primary school

The last kindergarten year is the so called school-preparing-year. There will be a pre-school (“Vorschule”). These are extra hours/lessons to prepare school (German, maths, ...). In this last kindergarten year the children are supposed to realize that school is coming closer and they will have to learn a lot. Sometimes they visit their future school together or the teacher visits them in the kindergarten.

All children who turn 6 by 30 June are required to attend school at the start of the following school year. In October before the first school year starts, they have to be registered in a primary school.

When kindergarten time is over, they celebrate a farewell party. This party is called „Zuckertütenfest“.

