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Children, young people and family

Family

Families in Germany look very different.
There are:

- Families where the woman and man are married and have one or more children together
- unmarried couples with children or families with only one parent (single parent)
- Families with same-sex parents (two women or two men) who have children
- Families in which the parents have children from a previous relationship (patchwork family) or have adopted children

Families in Germany enjoy many **benefits**. This includes family insurance and many favourable offers for the use of cultural, sports and leisure facilities. Families are also entitled to counselling and benefits within the framework of [child benefit and parental allowance](#).

Financial support for families

Parental allowance

Parental allowance helps parents if they can work less or not at all after the birth and therefore have **less money**. Parents who live separately can also receive parental allowance.

How much parental allowance you receive depends on how much you earned before the birth. You can claim parental allowance if you have a **settlement permit** or **residence permit** in Germany.

You must apply for parental allowance at the **parental allowance office** of the district of Warendorf.

Contact:

 [Waldenburger Str. 2, 48231 Warendorf](#)

 [Parental allowance](#)


Child benefit


All parents with a **settlement permit** or **residence permit** in Germany are entitled to child benefit.

Child benefit is paid for every child from birth until at least the age of 18. Under certain conditions, child benefit can also be extended. You must apply for child benefit yourself at the **Familienkasse** Nordrhein-Westfalen Nord.

Contact:

[Familienkasse Nordrhein-Westfalen Nord](#)

 [Bismarckstr. 10, 59229 Ahlen](#)

 [0800/4555530](#)

 [@Familienkasse-Nordrhein-Westfalen-Nord@arbeitsage...](#)

Child supplement

If you receive child benefit and have a **low income**, you can receive child supplement.

[Find](#) out about the most important aspects of this benefit [here](#). If you would like to find out in advance whether you are entitled to the child supplement, you can try out the [KiZ-Lotsen](#).

Recognition of paternity, custody and maintenance

Recognition of paternity

If parents are **not married to each other** at the time of the birth of a child, a legal acknowledgement of paternity is important. The child's mother must consent to the acknowledgement of paternity. Recognition can also take place before the child is **born**. To do this, make an appointment at the **registry office** in your place of residence or at the responsible [Youth welfare office](#). The parents must attend the appointment together and in person and bring the following documents with them:

- a valid identity document/passport
- the birth certificate or certificate of parentage of both parents (if the child has already been born, also the child's birth certificate)

Declaration of joint parental responsibility

Recognition of paternity is the prerequisite for a joint declaration of custody. If the parents of a child are **not married to each other**, the mother usually automatically receives sole custody, unless the mother is still a minor. A joint declaration of custody must be signed so that the father also receives custody. This can be done at the **same appointment as the acknowledgement of paternity** and even before the birth. Custody leads to rights and obligations towards the child.

Maintenance of the child

Parents are obliged to support their children. This means that they also bear **financial responsibility** for their children. The maintenance obligation applies to each parent and continues to **exist even in the event of separation**.

If a parent who is not looking after the child is unable to pay maintenance, financial support in the form of **an advance on maintenance payments** can be applied for from the relevant [youth welfare office](#).

Financial support during pregnancy

Additional pregnancy needs and initial baby equipment

If you receive benefits from the **job centre** (citizen's allowance) or the **social welfare office** (asylum seeker benefits), you can apply from the 13th week. You can apply for money for the **initial equipment** from the first week of pregnancy. To do this, submit an application for additional needs to your local job centre or social welfare office. You can use the extra money to buy clothes for the baby, a pram, a cot or something similar.

Important: Please apply to the job centre or social welfare office before you buy baby clothes, otherwise the costs cannot be covered!

The basic equipment for a child includes, for example

- a safe nappy-changing area
- a baby cot
- a pram/sling

You can also ask your [midwife](#) for information about useful basic baby equipment.

Support services

Multilingual learning and play groups

Ready to grasp

Parents and children discover play and language together. A programme for parents with toddlers from 1 to 3 years old

Rucksack-Kita

Rucksack-KiTa is a programme to improve children's language skills. Parents are important because they teach their children their first language. Parents, children aged 4 to 6 years and nursery teachers work together.

The programme lasts nine to ten months.

You can find more information on the "Griffbereit" and "Rucksack-Kita" programmes offered by the municipal integration centre [here](#).

Youth welfare offices in the district of Warendorf

Youth welfare offices help children, young people and families in many areas and offer various services. They ensure that young people and their parents know their rights. They should also be able to make use of the appropriate programmes and services. Much of what the youth welfare office does is available free of charge. This includes counselling, support, early help and leisure activities. Everyone - children, young people, young adults, parents and other guardians - can turn to the Youth Welfare Office with their questions and problems.

General Social Service (ASD)

The General Social Service (ASD) is a part of the Youth Welfare Office that helps with problems. Specialists advise and support people in difficult situations. The help is confidential

and anonymous. The ASD helps, for example, with

- Personal crises
- Problems with behaviour
- Difficulties with parenting
- Conflicts in the partnership
- Separation and divorce
- Custody disputes
- Neglect
- Child abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Endangering the welfare of the child

Early help

The "Early Help" department at the Youth Welfare Office offers support for families with children aged 0 to 3 and for pregnant women. They help with

- Questions about the child's development (for example, sleeping or crying)
- Questions about parenting
- Ways in which you can relieve yourself
- Medical questions

Youth welfare office Warendorf

The Warendorf Youth Welfare Office is also responsible for Beelen, Drensteinfurt, Ennigerloh, Everswinkel, Ostbevern, Sassenberg, Sendenhorst, Telgte and Wadersloh:

📍 [Waldenburger Str. 2, 48231 Warendorf](#)
☎ [02581/535101](tel:02581535101)
✉ @jugendamt@kreis-warendorf.de

Youth Welfare Office Ahlen

📍 [Westenmauer 10, 59227 Ahlen](#)
☎ [02382/59244](tel:0238259244)
✉ @jugendamt@stadt.ahlen.de

The family portal of the city Ahlen: [Familienportal](#)

Youth Welfare Office Beckum

📍 [Weststraße 46, 59269 Beckum](#)
☎ [02521/295101](tel:02521295101)
✉ @kinder-undjugendhilfe@beckum.de

The family portal of the city Beckum: [Familienportal](#)

Youth Welfare Office Oelde

📍 [Bahnhofstr. 29, 59302 Oelde](#)
☎ [02522/72508](#)

Family education centres

Family education centres are places where parents' cafés, courses, information events or playgroups are offered. You will also find advice on parenting issues there. Why not take your child to your nearest family education centre?

- **Family education centre Ahlen**
📍 [Klosterstr. 10a, 59227 Ahlen](#)
☎ [0238291230](#)
@ fbs-ahlen@bistum-muenster.de
- **Family education centre Oelde**
📍 [Carl-Haver-Platz 7, 59302 Oelde](#)
☎ [0252293480](#)
@ fbs-oelde@bistum-muenster.de
- **Family education centre Neubeckum**
📍 [Robert-Koch-Str. 3, 59269 Neubeckum](#)
☎ [025252955](#)
@ fbs-oelde@bistum-muenster.de
- **House of the family Warendorf**
📍 [Hohe Str. 3, 48231 Warendorf](#)
☎ [025812846](#)
@ fbs-warendorf@bistum-muenster.de

Educational counselling centres/family counselling centres










If you have **problems** with your child or in the family, there is help available.

The counselling centres help with questions about family life. Raising children and living together as a family can be difficult and stressful. Parents or their children can feel overwhelmed or helpless. This is especially true for single parents and for families who are separating or have recently separated. Sometimes all it takes is a little help and advice from outside to be able to tackle difficult situations in a new way. You will be supported in finding new ways and developing solutions.



The help centres are there for parents, children, siblings and grandparents. They work with you to find new ideas and ways of dealing with your insecurities, conflicts, crises and emergencies.

Counselling is free of charge.

Ahlen:

- [EFL Diocese of Münster](#)
 [Dechaneihof 1, 59227 Ahlen](#)
 [023821004](tel:023821004)
@efl-ahlen@bistum-muenster.de
- [Diakonie Ruhr-Hellweg](#)
 [Klärweg 16, 59227 Ahlen](#)
 [023815440031](tel:023815440031)
@blaumeier@diakonie-ruhr-hellweg.de
- [Caritas educational counselling](#)
 [Rottmannstraße 27, 59229 Ahlen](#)
 [0 2382893 128](tel:02382893128)
@erziehungsberatung@caritas-ahlen.de
- [Innosocial Ahlen](#)
 [Zeppelinstr. 63, 59229 Ahlen](#)
 [0238270990](tel:0238270990)
 nfo@innosozial.de

Beckum:

- [EFL Diocese of Münster](#)
 [Clemens-August-Straße 17, 59269 Beckum](#)
 [02521821742](tel:02521821742)
@efl-beckum@bistum-muenster.de
- [Diakonie family counselling](#)
 [Vellerner Str. 5, 59269 Beckum-Neubeckum](#)
 [025252063](tel:025252063)
@Stephanie.Hartmann@diakonie-guetersloh.de
- [Innosozial location Beckum](#)
 [Linnenstraße 37, 59269 Beckum](#)
 [0252187639940](tel:0252187639940)
@info@innosozial.de

Beelen:

- [Parents for Children Family Consultation Centre](#)

Oelde:

- [Innosozial location Oelde](#)
📍 [Am Bahnhof 2a, 59302 Oelde](#)
☎ [02522838420](#)
@info@innosozial.de
- [EFL Diocese of Münster](#)
📍 [Stromberger Straße 30, 59302 Oelde](#)
☎ [025229379166](#)
@efl-oelde@bistum-muenster.de
- [Early help - Family office Oelde SkF](#)
📍 [Wibbeltstraße 2, 59302 Oelde](#)
☎ [025228335779](#)
@familienbuero-oelde@skf-kreiswarendorf.de

Sendenhorst:

- [Family counselling in the Warendorf district](#): Wednesdays 14:30-16:00
Sendenhorst Town Hall
📍 [Kirchstr. 1, 48324 Sendenhorst](#) Room 001
☎ [025263030](#)

Warendorf:

- [Caritas counselling centre for parents, children and young people](#)
📍 [Kirchstraße 6, 48231 Warendorf](#)
☎ [02581636582](#)
@erziehungsberatung@kcv-waf.de
- [EFL Diocese of Münster](#)
📍 [Geiske 4, 48231 Warendorf](#)
☎ [025819284391](#)
@efl-warendorf@bistum-muenster.de
- [Innosocial Warendorf](#)
📍 [Südstraße 12b, 48231 Warendorf](#)
☎ [02581633257](#)
@info@innosozial.de
- [Social counselling SKM](#)
📍 [Kirchstraße 5, 48231 Warendorf](#)
@mail@skm-warendorf.de

Meeting places

The [multi-generation house Mütterzentrum Beckum e.V.](#) is a place where people of all ages can meet. The centre is barrier-free and open to all cultures. There are many leisure, counselling and support services on offer.

In the meeting point with café, visitors can exchange ideas, get free advice or take part in various activities. These include, for example

- Meetings for single parents
- Baby café
- Repair café
- Playgroups for children with accompanying adults
- Handicraft meetings
- Meeting of the "New in Beckum" initiative

Breakfast, cakes, pies and waffles are also available. If you like, you can simply spend time in the café or in the garden with playground. There is free WLAN and a book exchange centre. You don't have to consume anything at the meeting point.

The centre also hosts events, lectures, meetings of self-help groups, clubs and regulars' tables.




More information can be found on the website:

[https:// muetterzentrum-beckum.de/mehrgenerationenhaus.html](https://muetterzentrum-beckum.de/mehrgenerationenhaus.html)

Café pram

The Café Kinderwagen is for all expectant parents and families with small children. It is free, without obligation and you do not need to register. There is sure to be a Café Kinderwagen near you. A midwife and a nursery nurse will welcome you there. They will be happy to give you helpful tips on caring for and feeding your child.

The Café Kinderwagen can be found in the following locations:

- **Albersloh** Wednesdays 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Social centre
 [Kirchplatz 14, 48324 Sendenhorst-Albersloh](#)
 Social Centre Albersloh
- **Beelen** Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Axtbachhalle
 [Gaffelstadt 8, 48361 Beelen](#)
- **Drensteinfurt:** Thursdays 9:30-11:00 am
Cultural centre

📍 [Bahnhofsplatz 2, 48317 Drensteinfurt](#)

- **Ennigerloh:** Tuesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
House Krift
📍 [Neustraße 10, 59320 Ennigerloh](#)
- **Everswinkel** Tuesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Weidenkorb day care centre
📍 [Kolpingstraße 32, 48351 Everswinkel](#)
- **Freckenhorst** Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
LVHS room Wichtelhöhle
📍 [Am Hagen 1, 48231 Freckenhorst](#)
- **Liesborn:** Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
📍 [Gregor-Waltrmann-Str. 2, 59329 Wadersloh-Liesborn](#)
- **Milte:** Tuesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Wilhelm Achtermann School
📍 [Schulstraße 12, 48231 Warendorf-Milte](#)
- **Ostbevern:** Fridays 9:00-10:30 a.m.
OGS Franz-von-Assisi Primary School
📍 [Schulstr. 15, 48346 Ostbevern](#)
- **Rinkerode** Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Upper floor youth centre
📍 [Albersloher Straße 13, 48317 Drensteinfurt](#)
- **Sassenberg** Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Protestant parish hall
📍 [Schückingstr. 2, 48336 Sassenberg](#)
- **Sendenhorst:** Mondays 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Martinus-Haus, above the library
📍 [Kirchstraße 13, 48324 Sendenhorst](#)
- **Telgte** Thursdays 9.30-11.00 am (for children from 0-1 years),
Fridays 9:30-11:00 am (for children aged 1-3 years)

DRK House

📍 [Steintor 1, 48291 Telgte](#)

- **Wadersloh:** Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Villa Mauritz youth centre

📍 [Mauritz 11, 59329 Wadersloh](#)

- **Warendorf** Mondays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Phillip Melanchthon House

📍 [Pictoriusstraße 19, 48231 Warendorf](#)

- **Warendorf** Fridays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

HOT youth centre

📍 [Zwischen den Emsbrücken 1, 48231 Warendorf](#)

Help for women and children

Crises and arguments happen in every family. However, if you argue very frequently and perhaps even become **violent**, you should definitely seek professional help. In Germany, everyone - including parents and spouses - is prohibited from physically or mentally abusing other people or sexually harassing and abusing them. There are centres that offer **free** advice and where you can remain **anonymous**.

Immediate help:

Nationwide help hotline for violence against women [116016](#) or via the police emergency number [110](#)

The help hotline of the Federal Office of Family Affairs and Civil Society Functions is also available as a **chat** and in **sign language** [here](#).

Women's shelters

The women's refuge is a place where women affected by violence and their children can find shelter, protection and support. At the women's refuge, you and your children can come to rest and reorient yourselves.

- The women's refuge is available around the clock
- Admission is possible at any time
- The address of the women's refuge is secret

You can find an overview of available women's shelters in NRW [here](#).