
Table of Contents

Kindergarten, school and education	2
Enabling education	2
Learning opportunities on the internet	4
Child day care and family centres	5
Educational opportunities for families	7
School	7
School system in Germany	7
Recognition of school qualifications	8
How is my child going to join school?	9

Kindergarten, school and education

Enabling education

Education and Participation Package (BuT; Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket)

If you receive **social benefits**, it is possible for your child to receive **financial support** through the "Education and Participation Package". This is possible for **children up to their 18th birthday**.

Young adults up to their 25th birthday receive support in their **education** if they attend school but do not earn money during an apprenticeship. Support in the **area of leisure, culture and sport is only available up to the age of 18**.

The following grants are part of the Education and Participation Package:

- Children and young people **up to their 18th birthday** each receive **€15.00 per month**, for example, for **lessons, courses or free time** in the areas of **culture, art, education and sport**. This only applies to offers in leisure time.
- For **excursions** and **multi-day trips** with the **school** or the **day-care centre**, costs (travel costs, food, admission) are covered.
- The **communal lunch** in the school and in the day care centre will be covered in **full from August 2019**.
- School children receive **per school year €174.00 for school materials**, copying money and other costs of tuition.
- School children can receive **learning support (tutoring)** under certain conditions. The school confirms in which subjects and to what extent learning support is required.
- In rare **exceptional cases, transport costs for the way to school** can be financially supported.

Group of people:

Children and adolescents from families that receive

- unemployment benefit II/social benefit (so-called Hartz IV benefits) according to Book 2 of the Social Code (SGB II),
- social assistance in accordance with Book 12 of the Social Code (SGB XII),
- child supplement – KIZ according to the Federal Child Benefit Act (BKKG) or housing benefit according to the Housing Benefit Act (WoGG),
- benefits according to Section 2 Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) or according to Section 3 Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) in conjunction with Section 6 Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG).

Please enclose the current notice of a positive decision with your application for benefits from the Education and Participation Package as proof of receipt of the social benefit.


Who is responsible?

Depending on which benefits you receive, different authorities are responsible.

a) Recipients of unemployment benefit II or social benefit (Harz IV) can hand in their applications at the Jobcenter of the district of Olpe.

Jobcenter Kreis Olpe

Hansastraße 25
57439 Attendorn

 [02761/941260](tel:02761941260)

Fax: 02761/94126205

 jobcenter-kreis-olpe@jobcenter-ge.de

 [Jobcenter District of Olpe](#)

Important: You must always submit the application before you pay for something yourself. If you have already paid something, you will not get the money back from the Jobcenter.

b) Recipients of housing benefit, child supplement, social assistance and basic security (according to the 3rd and 4th chapter of SGB XII) and of benefits according to the **Asylum Seekers Benefits Act** can submit their applications to the following office: **District of Olpe - "Fachdienst Finanzielle soziale Hilfen"**.

District of Olpe

Westfälische Str. 75, 57462 Olpe

Further information and forms can be found [here](#).

Pupil BAföG (= Federal Training Assistance Act)

You can apply for the **"Schüler BAföG"** for your school education. BAföG is a **monthly financial support**, during the school years **(from grade 10)**. **It does not have to be paid back.**

You can find more information [here](#).

Learning opportunities on the internet

20. Reading, audio books, dictionaries and educational games

There are **free offers** on the internet and for mobile phones that can help with **learning at home**.

On the internet there are the following helpful websites:

♦ **“Die Maus”** is typically German and every child knows it. Take a look!

Website ⇒ **“Die Maus”**

♦ On the website **Aduis** you will find **worksheets for German, mathematics** and some other school subjects. ⇒ www.aduis.at/arbeitsblaetter

♦ On the Learning Apps website you will find many **tasks for learning German**. There are also **games, a puzzle collection** and gap texts in different languages. ⇒ www.learningapps.org

♦ This website is a **synonym dictionary**. Here you can find other words for a source word and expand your vocabulary. ⇒ www.anderes-wort-fuer.de

♦ On the website “mulingula-praxis.de” you will find **books** for primary school to **read and listen to** in **seven different languages**. You can read the books yourself or have them **read to you**. There are also targeted listening tasks for all the books. ⇒ www.mulingula-praxis.de

♦ On the Amira website, you will find **stories to read and listen to** as well as **games for primary school**. The books are available in **9 languages** and can be downloaded. ⇒ www.amira-pisakids.de

♦ On the website Lingonetz.de you can find **texts for reading and listening** and instructions for **experiments**. Many **beautiful photos** illustrate the page. ⇒ www.lingonetz.de/kids

♦ On the Ohrka website, you can find **many audio books in German** for the **children** between five and eight years. The **audio files** can be downloaded and can also be transferred to mobile phones and tablets. ⇒ www.ohrka.de

There are the following helpful apps for the mobile phone:

Dictionaries:

♦ With the **“LEO dictionary”** you can have words translated into different languages. In addition, there is a **learning game** for playful vocabulary learning.

⇒ [**To download for Android mobile phone**](#)

⇒ [**To download for iPhone**](#)

♦ In the **“dict.cc dictionary”**, you can have words translated into different languages.

⇒ [**To download for Android mobile phone**](#)

⇒ [To download for iPhone](#)

Vocabulary training

◆ With the app **“Learn German”** you can learn German vocabulary with the help of pictures and correct pronunciation. It is suitable for children and beginners.

⇒ [To download for Android mobile phone](#)

Learning games and movement games

◆ “Ein rätselhafter Auftrag” is a **learning-adventure game** from the **Goethe-Institut e.V.** As a player in the story, you apply for a job in a company and experience an exciting detective story.

◆ With the **Lingo-Quiz app** you can play alone or against friends. In the process, you learn about the subjects of **mathematics, computer science, natural sciences and technology.**

⇒ [To download for Android mobile phone](#)

⇒ [To download for iPhone](#)

◆ The **“Kitu app: Play and move together”** brings fun, games and exercise for the whole family. Simple and effective **movement exercises** from the “Kinderturnstiftung Baden Württemberg” and the “Auerbach-Stiftung” foundation from about **4 years.**

⇒ [To download for Android mobile phone](#)

⇒ [To download for iPhone](#)

Audio books and radio

◆ With the app **LibriVox Audiobooks** you can listen to over **24,000 audiobooks.** Volunteers read, not professionals. Many audio books are even available in over **30 languages.**

⇒ [To download for Android mobile phone](#)

⇒ [To download for iPhone](#)

◆ With the **ARD Audiothek App** you can listen to content from the radio programmes of ARD and Deutschlandradio. Here, there are **audio books for children.** As well as **many offers for adults** like thrillers, podcasts, comedy, documentaries and much more.

⇒ [To download for Android mobile phone](#)

⇒ [To download for iPhone](#)

Child day care and family centres

Children’s day-care

Day care centres take care of children of pre-school age and enable both **parents to go to work** or attend a language course. Here your child can make friends, learn the German language and discover new things in a process of interaction with the caregivers and other children.

In Germany, all children from the age of one are entitled to a childcare place (but not children from central accommodation facilities [ZUE]).

This can be in a **“kindergarten”** or in a **“day care”**. There is no “obligation for a child to attend kindergarten”. Parents pay a contribution each month, which is calculated individually.

The **transport** to the day care centre is to be arranged **by the parents themselves**.

In the district of Olpe, there are **90 day care centres** and about **60 day carers**.

Help with finding ⇒ child day care centres

If you receive a **rejection** from the desired day care centre in your residential area, you as parents can contact the **Youth Welfare Office** (see Contact below).

Family centres

Family centres are **day-care centres for children** which, in addition to providing care and education for children of pre-school age (up to 6 years of age), also offer a **service for families and parents**. The aim is to support families holistically in raising children and shaping their family life.

The family centres have **various offers of help, events and activities**, such as counselling for parents or arranging babysitters and much more.

⇒ **Family centres can be found at** child day care centres

Kindertageseinrichtungen = Kita = “Kindergarten”

Children from the age of one to the start of compulsory schooling are cared for in a group of 10 to 25 children by two to three educators.

Registering for the “Kindergarten”:

The registration of children takes place no later than **in November for the coming year by the parents directly at the kindergarten**.

Child day care = “childminder”

A day care worker looks after up to 5 children **aged 0 to 3 years** in the home or in rented rooms. Up to 3 day carers can also join forces and look after up to 9 children in total. The prerequisite for childcare is a qualification as a childminder or educator.

“Servicestelle Kindertagesbetreuung” (Child Day Care Service Centre)

The district of Olpe has set up the **Servicestelle Kindertagesbetreuung (Child Day Care Service Centre)** as a contact point **for all questions** on the topic of day care for children (day care facilities and day care for children).

If you have any questions about day care for children, you can go here:

Contact

District of Olpe, "Fachdienst Finanzielle Jugendhilfen" (Financial Youth Assistance Service)

Mr Sebastian Hüpper

Westfälische Straße 75, 57462 Olpe



[02761/81470](tel:0276181470)



se.huepper@kreis-olpe.de

Educational opportunities for families

Offers of the Adult Education Centre (VHS)

The "**Volkshochschule**" (Adult Education Centre [VHS]) always offers **courses for children and parents**.

- **You can find the current courses ⇒ [here](#)**

Family education centres

The **Catholic Educational Centre for Adults and Families** also offers courses for parents with their children.

We play and sing together, while parents can talk about **educational and everyday questions** and much more. [Go to the course programme](#)

School

School system in Germany

Compulsory education

Education is very important and a prerequisite for undertaking a regular job. In Germany, therefore, attending **school is mandatory**. Attending school is free of charge.

All children **from the age of 6 until the age of 18** must come to school every day from Monday to Friday. Exceptions are school and public holidays. Teaching hours are determined by the timetable.

If your child cannot come to school, this must be communicated by telephone by the parents. In case of illness, a **medical certificate is required** from the 4th day.

Parents' consultation days (**Elternsprechtage**) are held regularly for parents. Please attend, there you can talk to the teachers and get important information.

School system in Germany

The German school system offers various options for your child.

- **Via this link, you will find a flyer about the German school system in different languages** ⇒ ["Schulsystem NRW - einfach und schnell erklärt"](#)

⇒ **Flyer on the school system (German)**

- **Via this link, there is a** ⇒ [short film on the school system](#) available in German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish.

Recognition of school qualifications

Recognition of foreign graduation certificates

Qualification certificates are very important in Germany. If you want to start further education or vocational training, you have to present your certificates. You must first have your foreign certificate recognised.

What do I need to do?

1. Seek advice from the **IQ Network** on whether translation and recognition is necessary.

Digital counselling via web app throughout NRW:

Westdeutscher Handwerkskammertag e.V. (WHKT), IQ Mobiles Beratungsteam, www.whkt.de,

www.iq-netzwerk-nrw.de

Theodora Schiller (



[0211/3007704](tel:0211/3007704), anerkennungsberatung@iq-netzwerk-nrw.de)

Consultation languages: **English and Arabic**.

2. First find a **translator**. The translation must be done by a professional translator.

An overview of interpreters licensed in Germany can be found here ⇒
www.justiz-dolmetscher.de

3. After that, you need an **official certification** of your certificate. The following bodies can do this: public authorities, for example, city councils (town hall), district administration, mayors and notaries.

4. As a last step, you have to submit an **application** and send the following **documents** with it:

- Copy of passport with residence permit
- A curriculum vitae (CV)
- Foreign certificate and translated certificate.

Responsible government offices

Depending on the school-leaving qualification, different authorities are responsible for the recognition of your certificate:

A) Intermediate school leaving certificate (“Mittlere Reife”) and lower secondary school leaving certificate (“Hauptschulabschluss”)

Bezirksregierung Köln

Zeughausstr. 2-10, 50606 Köln



[0221/1472048](tel:02211472048)

Telephone consultation hours: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (Monday + Wednesday) and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Tuesday + Thursday)

Visitors' day: Thursdays, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Application form and further information can be found ⇒ [here](#)

B) General school leaving certificate (“Allgemeine Hochschulreife”)

Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf

Am Bonnhof 35, 40474 Düsseldorf



[0211/4750](tel:02114750)

Application form and further information available ⇒ [here](#).

How is my child going to join school?

How is my child going to join school?

At the **Residents' Registration Office (in the town hall)** you can find out who is responsible for school registration in your town. The person in charge will tell you **which school your child can go to**.

In the second step, parents **contact the designated school** and **register their child directly with the school**.

The admission process for the registered child at the school shall take place **within three days**.

Health check

The school arranges an **appointment for an examination** of the registered child with the **Health Service for the District of Olpe** and notifies the parents about this.

If **assistance with translation** is needed, then the school or the Health Office can apply for a **language mediator** free of charge at the Municipal Integration Centre.

Language support groups and support classes

If the German language skills of the children and young people are not yet sufficient, there are **language support groups at over 30 schools**. In these groups, the pupils are prepared for the fastest possible entry into regular classes through intensive German lessons.

For **older adolescents, international remedial classes at vocational colleges** are available, in which they are prepared for a school-leaving qualification and possible entry into working life.