



*Elbkinder – Kitas Preschool Education*



*Pre-school or nursery bridge year - Information from the Hamburg State Parents' Council*



*Kita or pre-school class?  
The last year before starting school:  
a decision-making aid for parents*



*The day nursery bridge year*

### What is important when choosing a primary school?

Parents are free to choose their school in Hamburg. The Hamburg educational plans are the same everywhere. However, the schools have the possibility to develop their own profiles and pedagogical concepts. There are also different concepts for afternoon care. In addition to these points, parents should consider the following questions when choosing a primary school: Are there friends with whom the child would like to go to a primary school together? Are there siblings or children from the neighbourhood who attend a primary school nearby?

### Wichtige Links:



*Parental contribution day nursery voucher*



*Parents' Guides Locations*



*Day nursery selection*



*Enrolment*



*Day nursery info*



*School Information Centre (SIZ)*

The Federal Parents' Network of Migrant Organisations for Education & Participation is called **bbt** for short. The **bbt** is a network that supports parents' associations, parents' initiatives by and for immigrant parents. The **bbt** aims to promote equal educational opportunities for all by informing, activating and empowering parents and strengthening parents' right to have a say. The **bbt** has 5 regional offices in Germany and the Regional Office North is one of the five offices. The North Regional Office is run by the association **Amfn e.V.** The North Regional Office includes:

- the Migrant Parents Network Hamburg
- the Migrant Parents Network Lower Saxony
- the Migrant Parents Network Bremen

June 2022

Publisher

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# From family to day nursery & from day nursery to school



## Information for parents

*This project is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.*



### What is a „Kita“ (day nursery)?

In Germany, children from the age of one year can be cared for in a day nursery outside of the family. If parents or legal guardians have to work, do an apprenticeship or attend a language course, the child can go to day nursery earlier.

### What do children learn in a day nursery?

They learn many skills that you should have before starting school: be attentive, follow rules, concentrate, be independent, listen to others.

And the most important: children find friends in day nursery and learn to get along in a group.

### What about children with special needs?

There are two ways to get extra help at a day nursery center:

1. Early support for children from 0 to 6 years
  2. Integration assistance for children from 3 years on.
- Further information is available at:

### Information on introduction of 4 ½ year olds:

Arabic



Farsi



Ukrainian



### The way to a day nursery:

1. Information and orientation: multilingual information and videos on the subject of a day nursery in Hamburg are available at [www.hamburg.de/kitaplatz](http://www.hamburg.de/kitaplatz) and [www.kitainfo.hamburg](http://www.kitainfo.hamburg)

2. Apply for a day nursery voucher: You can also apply for a day nursery voucher personally at the Soziales Dienstleistungszentrum SDZ. In most cases, further documents must be enclosed.

3. How to find a place at a day nursery: you have to look for a day nursery nearby, ask your neighbours or look at:

[www.hamburg.de/kita-finden](http://www.hamburg.de/kita-finden) .

It's best to call the day nursery or send an email.

4. We have found a place at a day nursery. What do we do now? Make an appointment at the day nursery and get to know what is being offered.

5. We like the day nursery: Now, you should discuss all questions with the day nursery and register your child by signing the childcare contract.

6. Acclimatization at the day nursery: the parents accompany the child several weeks until the child can stay alone at the day nursery.

The „Kita Kulturlots\*innen“ (day nursery culture guides) and the „Elternlots\*innen“ (parents' guides) will help you to choose a day nursery.

### What do I do if I can't find a place at a day nursery ?

1. If I can't find a free place myself, the district office will help me find one. I need a valid day nursery voucher at the earliest 3 months before the day nursery voucher starts.

2. In some cases, the search for a day nursery can take longer than three months. If the district office does not find a place within three months, it involves the responsible office in the Bezirksamt.

3. Write down the telephone cancellations from the day nursery on a list. You must collect at least 5 refusals.

4. Make an appointment with your clerk in the Bezirksamt.

5. The Bezirksamt helps with the search for free places

at a day nursery. Keep also looking for yourself.

6. Under the following <https://www.hamburg.de/kita-finden/12450412/platznachweis/> you will find further information.

### Four-and-half-year-old-children interviews – what is that?

Day nurseries and schools work together, so that all children have got the same chances to learn right from the start. In Hamburg we call it the "Four-and-half-year-old-children interviews".

Around 18 Months before the first day at school, all parents and children are invited to take part in 2 appointments: this takes place before the autumn holidays at the day nursery and afterwards at school.

These conversations with the parents are called „Four-and-half-year-old-children interviews“. All parents must attend these conversations. It is part of the „Hamburger Schulgesetz“ (law of public schools in Hamburg).

At this special day (Four-and-half-year-old-children interview), all children receive a blue backpack containing a book named „Hamburger Geschichten Buch“ (stories about Hamburg) which accompanies them on their way from day nursery to school.

### Preschool or day nursery bridging year?

In Hamburg, parents are facing an important decision one year before school starts: Should my child continue to attend day nursery or go to pre-school? Since both institutions, pre-school and day nursery, offer a wide range of educational trainings as a preparation for primary school, parents should make the decision individually. In addition to the concerns of the parents, also the wishes and interests of the child should be taken into account.