



## **Multilingualism and education right from the start**

Speaking family language(s) with children  
and learning about educational pathways

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Dear parents,

does your family speak multiple languages or languages other than German? Then you and your child have a great advantage: With your family's language and German, your child can grow up multilingual. As a result, they belong to a large majority of the world's population, since growing up with multiple languages and speaking multiple languages is now normal and a great opportunity for further living, learning and professional development.

Generally, children who grow up bilingual or multilingual will have no difficulty in learning the languages. In fact, no matter which languages are acquired in childhood, simply acquiring them can have a beneficial effect on the learning of other languages.

As a multilingual family, you should support your family's languages to help preserve an important part of your family identity. With this brochure, we would like to show you how you can help your child learn German as a foreign language and what services are available in your area.

Ihr  
Ministerium für Kinder, Familie,  
Flüchtlinge und Integration  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

## Multilingualism and education right from the start

### Multilingualism in everyday family life

- Accompany what you do linguistically: Your child first heard your voice in the womb. It's familiar and reassuring for them. When you speak your family's language, your child will feel secure and warm.
- Growing up with more than one language is a gift for your child because multilingualism has many long-term advantages. Your family language(s) will accompany your child for life. It is important that you talk to your child with joy from the very beginning. Even if they cannot yet understand what is being said, your child will be happy to hear from you.
- Awaken your child's joy of speaking by speaking the language that you know best, frequently and on everyday occasions.
- Even if your child visits a day care centre or is looked after in a day care centre, your family language remains of great importance, as this is the language that your child has bonded with you in, and where they feel secure.
- German as a second language will also have a special significance for the future of your child, e. g. when making friends or later in school. The better your child can already speak one language, the easier your child can learn other languages. Therefore, your family languages are an important basis for further language learning, e.g. German as a second language.

#### Reading

Looking at and reading picture books together helps your child learn to speak. There are picture books even for babies (also multilingual). Public libraries have a large selection of (multilingual) books even for the youngest children, which can be borrowed free of charge or for a small fee.



City libraries can be found at the end of this flyer

**Guten Morgen, Clara!** Komm, wir ziehen deine Sachen aus. Da haben wir deine **Mütze!** Die Mütze legen wir hier in dein Fach. Was ziehen wir jetzt aus? Stimmt, die **warme Jacke.** Den **rechten Ärmel** ausziehen und den **linken Ärmel** ausziehen.

Die **Jacke** hängen wir an den Haken. Jetzt ziehen wir **deine Schuhe** aus und stellen sie unter die Bank. Wo sind deine **Hausschuhe?** Da sind deine Hausschuhe. Die ziehen wir noch an und dann bist du fertig.



#### You can be a language role model for your child by supporting your speech with actions.

Your child will learn new words when you put a word to everything you are doing. The repeated use of terms helps the child link them to activities and expands their vocabulary. This will also create an important basis for grammatical development: The child understands that sentences – as well as the accompanying activities – follow certain structures.

### Movement and Music

Research confirms that exercise and singing help your child learn to speak. By moving, your child can experience words through their own actions or on their own body.

Create regular opportunities for your child to experience music and/or move around. There are also many activities in which your child can sing, do gymnastics, romp and play with others in a group and you as parents can learn new songs or games for your child. This enables your child to come into contact with the German language through play.

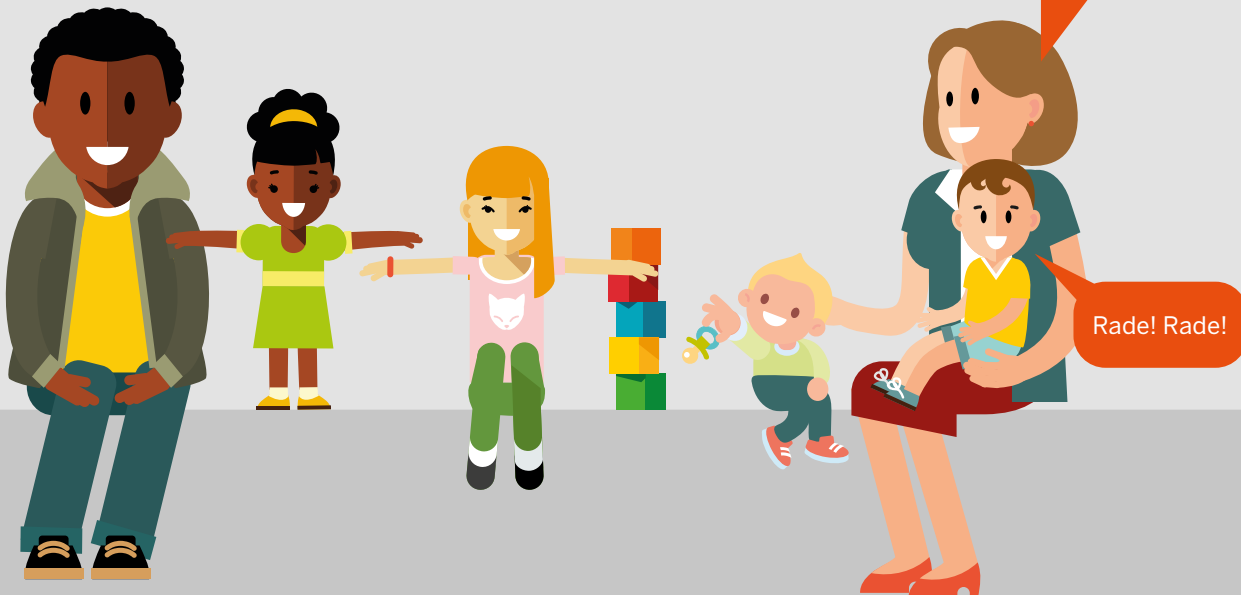


Movement and music offers can be found at the end of the flyer

Und wir singen unser Lied zur Begrüßung: „Das ist gerade, das ist schief ...“

Genau, das ist gerade.

Rade! Rade!



## Multilingualism and education right from the start

### Family-and-child groups, family get-togethers

#### (children from 0-3 years)

There are many activities that help families get to know each other, trade experiences and get advice on questions of education and family life. Often new friendships or communities form here.

All educational activities are aimed at supporting and accompanying you and your child. Friendly cooperation with the contact persons or specialists also helps the child to feel comfortable in the activities or later in the day care or nursery.

Parents sometimes report that they feel alone in everyday life after the birth of the child. **Families or parent-child meetings/cafés** offer the opportunity for you and your child to meet other parents and children at an early age. You can have breakfast with other families or have coffee and cake in the afternoon. The children have a lot of play opportunities and pedagogical experts are available for advice if you have any questions.

There are many special parent-child groups, e.g. for multilingual parents or only for fathers, only for mothers or for single parents. You can visit the groups in the first year of your child's life. The groups meet at different places, e.g. in a nursery, a hospital, a parents' café or a family education centre. The parent-child groups can serve the exchange or promote the development of the child with a certain program. There are many activities and groups for other relatives accompanying your child (grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, friends). Simply ask the group management.



Contact points for family and child groups can be found at the end of this flyer

Ich freue mich, Dich kennen zu lernen. Mein Name ist Maya und das ist hier ist Noah. Jetzt können unsere Kinder zusammen spielen.



Especially in the **ready-to-handle groups**, interpreters are sometimes available to help you get into conversation. It is also desirable for you to contribute your family language(s). This way, all children grow up with an awareness of several languages. By visiting these groups you will of course also help your child learn the German language.

More information under

[www.kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de/griffbereit](http://www.kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de/griffbereit)

In some cities there are volunteer family sponsors or grandparents 'on loan' who can support you in everyday life for a longer period of time. These "godparents" can watch your child for a short time, take care of shopping, accompany you on visits to the doctor or the authorities and look after your child. The godparents can play with your child and speak German with them.



In some cities there are agencies for family sponsors or godparents. Please have a look at the back of this flyer



## Childcare at the day care center (Kita)

- Your child can attend a kindergarten or day care at an early age. There is a fixed timetable, e.g. the children are welcomed together, they eat together, play and have new experiences.
- The day care staff or pedagogical specialists will help you and your child to get used to the day care centre or kindergarten. At the beginning you can also stay with your child.
- Your child can learn the German language easily if they go to day care or kindergarten at an early age. The earlier your child comes into contact with the German language, the easier it will be for them to learn the new language. There, your child will receive plenty of stimulus in the German language from the day care staff or the pedagogical specialists and the other children. This enables your child to hear and speak the German language frequently. They will also make friends with other children who speak German or another language.

Information on registrations for child day care can be found under the following link:

[www.kita.nrw.de/  
eltern/kita-finder/  
kita-finder-nrw](http://www.kita.nrw.de/eltern/kita-finder/kita-finder-nrw)





## Day care

- In child day care, there are smaller groups than in kindergarten and the children are cared for by day care workers.
- Especially for young children (from 0-3 years), day care is suitable for the first transition from the family to an out-of-home care and educational program. The smaller groups make it easier for some children and their family or families to get used to the new environment and the German language.
- The day care staff have attended their own further training in order to optimally accompany your child. They also help you and your child to interact with other parents and children.
- As parents you will be informed about the development of your child as well as about procedures and guidelines regarding child day care. The day care staff place value on the fact that all parents can feel welcome and can also contribute their own family language(s).
- There, for example, joint activities are organised to which all parents are invited.



You will find your specialist department for child day care at the end of this flyer

## Day care center (Kita)






- Your child can also attend a nursery from the age of one. There, children between the ages of one and six are looked after by educational specialists. Some centres also accept children younger than one year of age. Depending on the age, there are groups of 10 or 25 children.
- The nursery hosts regular parent-teacher meetings, during which you are informed about the development of your child and the daily routine at the nursery. Parents can also ask questions there.
- In addition, there are activities, information events and parties that all parents are invited to. It is important that all parents can participate, e. g. through their own family language.
- Your family language will be appreciated in the day care centre, e.g. your child can also speak in that language. Songs are sung and projects are done by the children to learn these different languages.








Contact persons for a day care centre can be found at the end of this flyer

## Address List

 Movement and Music

 Name	 Adresse	 Telefon	 Internet	 E-Mail

 Libraries

 Name	 Adresse	 Telefon	 Internet	 E-Mail









## More information

[www.familienbildung-in-nrw.de//fuer-eltern/elternstart-nrw](http://www.familienbildung-in-nrw.de//fuer-eltern/elternstart-nrw)  
[www.griffbereit-rucksack.de](http://www.griffbereit-rucksack.de)  
[www.kita.nrw.de](http://www.kita.nrw.de)  
[www.ane.de/bestellservice/sprachentwicklung](http://www.ane.de/bestellservice/sprachentwicklung)



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Frühe Hilfen 

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