Information sheet on preschool language support

What is preschool language support?

Preschool language support helps children improve their language skills before starting school. A child 's successful participation in school lessons depends to a large extent on whether the child understands and speaks German.

Your child was tested and a need for language support was identified. The instrument used is called "Deutsch Plus 4" and was developed by experts to assess the German language skills of children older than four years.

The legal basis for preschool language support is regulated in the School Act, Section 55 Paragraph 2 Sentence 3.

How do I get a place for preschool language support?

Preschool language support takes place in a daycare center of your choice.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a list of daycare centers in your area. You can find an available spot there. You can also use the daycare navigator for your search: https://kita-navigator.berlin.de

If you cannot find a free daycare place, the youth welfare office can help you with your search. You can present the language support voucher you received to the daycare center. You will then receive a contract for 35 hours per week, five days a week.

If you require extended childcare for your child, you can apply to the youth welfare office for a childcare voucher covering more than 35 hours per week over five days. If you have not found a childcare place by the deadline (page 1, middle of the notification), the school authority will assign you an available place in a childcare center.

How long does preschool language support last?

Language support begins 18 months before the planned school start date and ends on July 31st before the planned start date. It lasts seven hours a day, five days a week. You can find out the specific times of the language support sessions at the daycare center.

Language support sessions also take place during school holidays, but not during the daycare center's closing times. During daycare center opening hours, children can be temporarily excused upon request, but only if there is a valid reason.

How much does preschool language support cost?

Preschool language support is free of charge. Participation in the lunch program costs €23 per month. For those eligible for benefits under the Education and Participation Package (BuT), the cost of the communal lunch is fully covered. The Berlin Pass BuT must be presented for this .

How does preschool language support work?

Preschool language development takes place within the daily routine of the daycare center. This means that children receive language support at every opportunity (for example, while playing, crafting, speaking, singing, and eating). The concept used by the daycare centers is

called the "Berlin Education Program for Daycare Centers and Childminders." You can ask about it at the daycare center or find it here: https://www.berlin.de/sen/bildung/schule/bildungswege/fruehkindliche-bildung/#bildungsprogramm

Why is preschool language support mandatory?

Preschool language support is only effective if your child participates regularly and ideally for the entire period until starting school. Therefore, the legislature has enshrined mandatory participation in preschool language support in the Berlin School Act. You can find this obligation in Section 55 of the School Act.

Please always bring your child to language support sessions on time and pick them up again afterward. If your child is absent too frequently, arrives late, or is picked up too early, the daycare center will invite the parents to a meeting. The aim of this meeting is to make arrangements to improve the situation. If the situation does not improve after this meeting, or if the child is absent **without excuse more than 10 times consecutively within a calendar month** , the school authorities will be informed.

Failure to regularly attend preschool language support classes constitutes an administrative offense. The school authority can then impose a fine of up to €2,500 or a penalty payment. The legal basis for this is regulated in Section 126, Paragraph 3 of the School Act.

If your child is ill, has had an accident, or is unable to attend preschool language support for any other sudden reason, please inform the daycare center. The absence will then be **excused** .

Please confirm receipt of this information sheet and bring it with you when registering for language support.

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet.

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Date Signature(s) of legal guardian(s)