

**To: All parents of children in Berlin daycare centers**

06.11.2020

## **Guidance for parents about the current situation of daycare centers**

**Ladies and gentleman, dear parents,**

recent developments in the Corona pandemic force us once again to severely restrict public life and personal contacts. Unlike during the spring lockdown, this time around we have good news for families with children: the daycare centers shall remain open! The German federal states and the federal government made this decision consensually after in-depth consultation with expert scientists.

For as we all know by now, it is very difficult for small children to go without their friends, learning through play and everyday life in the daycare. At the same time, looking after small children at home for several weeks posed a great challenge - above all - for working parents. You have shouldered the burden of these and many other restrictions in the spirit of solidarity. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your efforts!

So far, daycare centers have not proven to be drivers of infection. Our institutions have gained valuable experience, protective measures proved to be effective. We want it to remain this way. We know that every shuttered daycare group poses a challenge for the families concerned.

Your actions will be vital in ensuring that our daycare centers may remain open. In order to prevent infections and the closures they lead to, we ask you to observe the following rules:

- **Please follow the protective measures of your daycare center!** - Daycare centers introduced these measures in accordance with the SARS-CoV-2 Containment Measures Ordinance of Berlin and in conversation with Berlin's *Gesundheitsamt* [public health authority]. These measures serve a single purpose: It is to prevent that infection spreads to the daycare center's staff members and your children. Please put yourself

In the shoes of the daycare center's staff members. They are following their employer's regulations; they want the best for your child.

- **Always wear a mask, please, when you enter the daycare center or its environs.** Should you not be able to wear a mask for health reasons, please arrange alternative measures with the daycare center staff to bring and drop off your child.
- **Please provide warm clothing for your child,** as daycare centers will spend more time outside with the children in the coming days and weeks. Even during cold weather, the daycare's rooms will be ventilated regularly and thoroughly.
- **Necessary conversations should take place via phone and by arrangement,** so that pedagogical work is interrupted as little as possible. Please understand that during this time conversations regarding the development of your child and parent conferences will not always take place in their usual format.
- **Please assume your share of responsibility for the continued operation of the daycare centers and the health of their members of staff.** Some daycare teachers belong to a risk group or they have relatives at home who belong to a risk group. Please protect staff members by taking protective measures seriously.

We would like you to be able to bring your child to the daycare center with a good conscience even during these weeks. Together with the daycare teachers we will succeed in weathering this difficult time and keeping the duration of restrictions as short as possible.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely p. p.

Holger Schulze

Abteilungsleiter Familie und frühkindliche Bildung

[Head of Division for Family and Young Children's Education]

PS: You may find up to date information with regards to SARS-CoV-2 and daycare centers in various languages here: QR-Code and url

