



Kanton Zürich  
Bildungsdirektion

# Well cared for ahead of school, well prepared for school

Information for parents

Englisch  
English

## **Dear parents**

You want the best for your child so they can thrive and get ahead in life. How they spend their time in their early years is really important for their success at school later on. Alongside the love and care you give them, it's good if they can get to know other children from a young age, spend time in a stimulating environment and have the opportunity to learn German. Playgroups, daycare centres and childminders offer all these things while enabling you to go to work.

### **What are playgroups (Spielgruppen) and what do they offer?**

In a playgroup there are 8 to 10 children from 3 years old to kindergarten age. The playgroup takes place several times a week. Sessions are between 2 and 3 hours and are led by professionals. Parents cover the costs themselves.

### **What are daycare centres (Kinderkrippen) and what do they offer?**

In a daycare centre, children from 2 months old to kindergarten age are taken care of by trained staff. Children go to daycare from half a day to 5 days a week and spend time in groups of about 10 children. Your child is well cared for while you are at work and staff encourage your child's development. Some local authorities subsidise the costs.

### **What are childminders (Tagesfamilien) and what do they offer?**

At a childminder's your child is looked after like at home and there are usually other children in the same home for your child to play with. You and the family taking care of your child agree times that suit you best. The childminder («Tagesmutter») does not usually have training in education but local authorities provide supervision. Some local authorities subsidise the costs.

You can find further information and guidance on how to find a childcare place for your child at [www.lotse.zh.ch](http://www.lotse.zh.ch).

For information about childminders, go to [www.vzt.ch/mitglieder](http://www.vzt.ch/mitglieder).