

FACTSHEET: Preschool- and early age childcare & afternoon care facilities in Vienna

Parents in Vienna can make usage of a well-structured network of child-care institutions. There are in total approx. 100,000 children cared for in the elementary education and care facilities of the City of Vienna, slightly more than a third of them in municipal facilities. Other than the ones that are city-owned, there are also childcare facilities run by different charity or private organizations, clubs, parishes or parent-groups as well as commercial enterprises.

Types of facilities available:

CRÈCHES / DAY NURSERIES / “Kinderkrippen”:

Day nurseries are for small children up to the age of three. Group sizes and the number of nursery school teachers are geared towards the needs of small children in that age group. Special emphasis is placed on making children feel safe and sheltered while catering to their need for physical activity.

KINDERGARTENS / “Kindergärten”:

For children aged three to six there are kindergartens to prepare them for life in the community in a holistic approach. Nursery school teachers make sure the day at kindergarten is full of incentives so that children can make plenty of experiences and acquire knowledge at the same time. Included in the program are excursions, cultural events and sports activities. Many kindergartens offer Montessori teaching methods, English language courses and give a first introduction to computers.

CHILDREN'S GROUPS / “Kindergruppen”:

Children's groups are an alternative to kindergartens. Nearly all of them are privately run and managed, very often by groups of parents themselves, who are also contributing to the work done at the facility, by e.g. cooking meals, cleaning, etc. They very often offer different concepts of education or may e.g. be aiming at parents of a specific nationality or faith. There are children's groups for children of all ages.

DAY-PARENTS / “Tages-Eltern”:

Day-parents are private adults who, very often in addition to watching their own children at home, also take care of other parents' kids – but always in their own homes, apartments, etc. They receive a similar but shorter training than kindergarten-teachers, but are also educated in pedagogic, early-age teaching, first-aid and similar fields. This can be the most flexible solution for parents, and has the advantage of a very family-like surrounding. Day parents may also take care of kids of all ages.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE / “Hort” or “Tageschulheim”:

With the big majority of Viennese schools only having classes from approx. 08:00 to approx. 11:00 – 14:00 (depending on the age of the children), many parents need facilities to take care of their kids until they come back from work in the late afternoon. This duty is overtaken either in the schools directly (in this case it is called “Tageschulheim”) or the children go to a separate facility which is normally close to the school's location, but is accepting children from a number of local schools (in this case it is called “Hort”). Whereas for most international parents the idea of a “Tageschulheim” sounds more familiar and convenient, it has to be said that most of them are closed during the fairly extensive Austrian school holidays, whereas the Horts remain open during this time.

In both types, care starts immediately after school finishes every day, the children are normally served a warm meal before they spend the afternoon with sessions of both supervised home-work time and studying as well as playing, tours to nearby parks, etc.

Basic legal aspects of pre-school childcare:

Mandatory year:

The Austrian legal bodies see pre-school care in some form of group or institution as a major and important aspect of a child's development, which all children have to be enrolled for a minimum of one year and for at least 5 hours per day and 4 days per week (except in cases of illness or during family holidays) in some form of Kindergarten or children's group. The mandatory year starts at the latest on the first day of September following the child's 5th birthday.

An information sheet in English by the responsible municipal department 10 can be found here:

<https://www.bildungssystem.at/en/primary-school/pre-school>

Cost-free childcare:

Together with the above mentioned mandatory childcare year, another law was introduced in 2009 providing substantial financial funding to Viennese childcare facilities, which enables them to offer cost-free childcare in many cases, and not only for the one mandatory year, but for the whole time they are attending care, either in a City-owned or a private institution. The parents will only have to pay for the child's daily meals (approx. € 60. - / child / month in public kindergartens) and additional services such as extended opening hours or e.g. early-age foreign language education.

But please note that this offer in Vienna only exists for children who, together with at least one parent, have a main place of residence registered in Vienna. Parents who are e.g. living in the neighboring province of Niederösterreich / Lower Austria can either enroll their children cost-free under certain conditions in a facility in Lower Austria (pls. contact your local town or district administration for details) or can also register their kids for a Viennese facility, if this suits their needs better, but they will have to pay the complete costs in Vienna themselves then.

Tax deductibility:

From the calendar year 2019 on, the Family Bonus Plus replaces the tax deductibility of childcare costs and the child allowance.

The Family Bonus Plus is a tax deduction of € 2,000 per child and year (starting from the calendar year 2022) up to the age of 18. After the child's 18th birthday, a reduced Family Bonus Plus totaling € 650 is granted annually, provided that family allowance is received for this child. The Family Bonus Plus can either be considered by the employer in the current payroll accounting or claimed in the employee tax assessment.

Please find more information on the Family Bonus Plus here:

<https://www.bmf.gv.at/en/topics/taxation/family-and-children.html>

Registration procedures:

When to register?

For crèches and day nurseries (regardless whether they are city-owned or private), it is advisable to get in contact with suitable facilities as early as possible, either after a child was born or e.g. as soon as you know that you will move to Vienna, as capacities are currently quite limited. The headmasters or group leaders of the individual group will advise you on the timeframes for the next procedures then.

For kindergarten-vacancies, there are slight differences between city-owned and private facilities. The regular time for a child to start Kindergarten is the beginning of September of each year, parallel to the school year, this is when the facilities put together new groups and it is advisable to stick to this date if it suits your needs somehow.

For city-owned kindergartens, the responsible municipal department 10 accepts regular registrations in January or February for the following September, you may register your child earlier, but you will not be given preference to parents or children who have waited until this date. Private facilities have their own regulations regarding this, and popular institution sometimes have long waiting lists, so it may be advisable to contact the institution much earlier to secure a place.

Where to go first & where to register?

If you already have a certain facility (city-owned or private) in mind where you would like to enroll your kid, you can go directly there, and the headmasters or group leaders will provide you with the necessary forms and addresses for the next steps, which will most likely be to go to a service-office of municipal department 10.

If you don't have certain facility in mind already, you can also go directly to these service offices first:

For the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 20th and 23rd district:

Niederhofstraße 21/ entrance: Ignazgasse 2

1120 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 277 55 55

Fax: +43 1 4000-99-13870

E-Mail: sst12@ma10.wien.gv.at

For the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th district:

Wilhelminenstraße 93

1160 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 277 55 55

Fax: +43 1 4000-99-16870

E-Mail: sst16@ma10.wien.gv.at

For the 21st and 22nd district:

Bernoullistraße 7

1220 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 277 55 55

Fax: +43 1 4000-99-22870

E-Mail: sst22@ma10.wien.gv.at

All service offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 08h00 – 12h00.

The service hotline (+43 1 277 55 55) can be reached from Monday to Friday from 07h30 – 18h00.

If a personal appointment is necessary, please make an appointment by phone.

The service offices will provide you with all necessary information on the city-owned facilities as well as with addresses and some basic information on private offers, and if you have come there to already register your child, you will be asked to name your two most-preferred childcare-facilities for which you would like to enroll your kid.

But the most important task of these offices is the registration of all children to the “register of Viennese kindergarten children” / “Verzeichnis der Wiener Kindergartenkinder”. Every child for whom the parents would like to profit from the free childcare-programs has to be registered in this database, to avoid double-registrations in certain kindergartens.

You can register personally, by e-mail or by fax to any of the service offices, the necessary form can be found here (unfortunately in German only):

[Anmeldung für einen städtischen Kindergartenplatz \(wien.gv.at\)](https://www.wien.gv.at/kinder/index.htm)

The registration number for your child will be sent to you in any case by “normal” mail after the registration, and with this number, the chosen kindergarten can then claim the financial funding from the city.

If you have regularly registered your child in January or February for a city-owned institution to start in September, the service office will normally inform you by May, if your child can visit one of the preferred institutions you mentioned at registration or which alternatives can be offered. The service centers will try to fulfill all parents’ wishes, but in case of a shortage of available resources, the following guidelines will be used for deciding which child gets a place at a certain facility first:

- First priority is given to children having to be enrolled into care due to the mandatory kindergarten-year regulation.
- Children of families where all parents are working are being given priority towards families where one parent is staying at home.
- The service offices are asked to assign each child to a facility as near as possible to the families place of residence or to the parents’ workplace, and will try to accommodate all children of a family in the same facility.

If you are planning to enroll your child in a private institution and need more information on the available resources other than the one provided by the service offices, the following website can be recommended, it lists all private institutions available in certain districts for children of certain ages:

<https://www.betreuungsplatz.at/home> - In German only unfortunately

To secure a place within a private institution, you will then have to go to the private kindergarten or childgroup with the client-number you have received from the service office, and make a binding reservation for your child there directly with the individual company or institution.

If you need an available place outside the usual timeframe:

If you e.g. arrive in Vienna at some other time then the summer, or maybe finally get that interesting job-offer you had searched for long and need a care-place for your children at short notice at any time during the year, please ...

- Register at your local service-office ASAP to get your child’s client number, and they will also tell you in which city-owned facilities there are currently places available
- Check with “Kinderdrehscheibe” for available places in private facilities

Your choices will not be as big for a start in September, but there is normally always some institution offering availabilities ...

Facilities for Non-German speaking kids:

Early childhood is very often considered to be the perfect age to learn a new language, and many international parents have successfully enrolled their Non-German speaking children in “regular”, German-speaking childcare facilities, and were, despite some difficulties in the first weeks, very often amazed by how quickly their kids picked up the new local language.

There may however be reasons for parents to prefer a Non-German speaking or bilingual linguistic surrounding for their child. These needs are catered for by a number of private kindergartens in Vienna, which we have tried to list below. To avoid making this factsheet endless, we have listed the online-links mainly, and pls. find the district in which the facility is located in () next to the link, and if it is not mentioned additionally, there are either bilingual or completely English-speaking.

Please note that this list does not aim to be a ranking or quality certificate of any kind, institutions are listed solemnly for information purposes.

<http://www.promised-land.at/> (1.)

<http://www.danubeschool.com> (2.)

<http://www.unitedchildren.at/html/homeenglish.html> (2. & 6.)

<http://www.casalatina.or.at> (3. Spanish)

<https://www.childrensacademy.at/> (3.)

<http://www.montessori-preschool-vienna.com/> (3.)

<http://www.kindercompany.at/bilinguale-erziehung/>

<http://schulverein-komensky.schulweb.at/1007,,,2.html> (3., Czech)

Play & Learn: <https://www.playandlearn.at/> (5., 12.)

Kindergruppe KIRIKU – 1060 Vienna, Eggerthgasse 11/8, Tel: +43 660 672 87 78, hort.kiriku@gmail.com (6., French)

<http://www.life-family-work.at> (22.)

<http://www.babyoase.at> (8., 9., French)

<http://www.archenoah.vienna.at> (10.)

Kindergarten Wienerbergcity – 1100 Vienna, Hertha Firnbergstraße 10, Tel: +43 1 6000969 (10.)

<https://www.kinderakademie-wien.com/> (10.)

<http://www.kindergarten-nestchen.at> (13.)

<http://www.funandcare.at/> (15.)

<http://xn--mrchenmond-q5a.at/> (15., Spanish)

BIZ 1 + 2, 1160 Vienna, Wilhelminenstraße 84-85/5, Tel: 0699 / 19950808 (16., English & French)

Enke Kinder-,Hortgruppe, 1160 Wien Schuhmeierplatz 2, enkekind@hotmail.com ,Tel: 923 47 86 (16.)

<https://www.kindergarten-thalia.at/> (16. / 17.)

Wiener Kinderfreunde, 1160 Vienna, Kopfstrasse 103, Tel: 01 / 4949296 (16.)

<http://www.kindergruppe-handinhand.at> (17.)

<http://teddybaer.or.at/> (17.)

<https://www.kirschbaumhaus.at/> (18.)

<http://www.farbklecks.org/> (18.)

<http://www.vienna-elementary-school.at/index.php/curriculum/preschool> (18.)

Kindergarten HARMONIE, 1190 Vienna, Heiligenstädterstraße 40, Tel: 01 / 3677172 (19., French)

<http://www.schmetterling.at> (19.)

<http://www.svenskaskolan.at> (19., Swedish)

<http://www.spielzimmer-5-sinne.at> (19., Italian)

<http://sinkofi.com/zamzam-mekka.at/> (20., English & Arabian)

<http://www.hundert-morgen-wald.at> (21.)

<http://www.montessori-vienna.at> (22.)

<https://www.kidsunitedkindergarten.com/> (22.)

Kinder in Wien, 1220 Vienna, Eibengasse 56, Tel: 01 / 2858483 (22.)

<http://www.viennaenglishpreschool.com> (22.)

Kindergarten der Pfarre Liesing, 1230 Vienna, Perchtoldsdorfer Straße 9, Tel: 0664 / 88522773 web:

<http://liesing.nikolausstiftung.at/unser-haus/> (23.)

<https://kinderfreunde.at/angebote/detail/23-schartlgasse-13> (23.)

Commercial offers for Non-German speaking families:

There is a growing number of commercial companies offering services for children or the whole family, which go beyond what is already offered by kindergartens or play-groups, please see their websites for more information:

<https://musicalmunchkins.eu/en/home> – Very modern style early-age music lessons for local & expat kids

<https://www.susasoccer.rocks/> – very experienced English-speaking soccer school and summer camps for boys and girls starting at the age of 5