





Learn German before kindergarten

The City of Bern wants all children to have the best possible opportunities at school. A good knowledge of German is very important for a successful start at school. "Learn German before kindergarten" is a programme that supports children who speak little or no German.

How is my child's knowledge of German assessed?

As parents, 18 months before your child starts kindergarten you receive in the post a letter with a link to an online questionnaire (available in 12 languages). You can assess your child's knowledge of German yourself. The questionnaire will be treated as confidential and reviewed by the City Healthcare Service, Primano Early Support. The review will show if your child needs German language support. You will always be contacted by us.

Where can your child learn German?

If your child needs language support, they can attend a daycare centre or a playgroup before they start in kindergarten. That way, they will learn German while playing. The city and canton can help pay for this. The amount contributed by parents depends on income.

What do you have to do as parents?

Complete the questionnaire as shown in the instructions in the letter to parents. If your child is starting kindergarten in August next year, you will receive this letter in January. Please complete the questionnaire even if your child is already attending a daycare centre or playgroup.

Please note:

When it comes to early language learning, the first language is key. As a parent, you are making an important contribution to your child's language development when you talk with them, play with them, tell them stories and teach them verses and rhymes in your own language. This is the foundation for all further languages your child learns.

Where can you get more information?

www.primano.ch/deutsch-lernen

