

## New in school

### Information about the topic school enrollment in 2020

Dear parents,

a lot of kids are going to start school all over Berlin this year. This day and the time before school starts is associated with a lot of excitement, anticipation but also with a lot of questions.

Maybe your child is going to be one of them this year. For some of you it may even be the first time that you are allowed to attend school as a parent. Especially during these times it is helpful to communicate with other parents or the teachers in the kindergarten. Now that personal exchange and contact are missing, the uncertainty increases for many. Processes and structures that may already be known are suddenly different because of Corona and what is already known is no longer valid. Deadlines and dates are postponed or cancelled - there is a lack of orientation and clarity. First of all you are not alone with your questions and uncertainties! There are many families having the same questions.

Many families are very concerned about the lack of school entrance exams. Many parents wonder whether it is even possible to start school without an examination? You might also be concerned about when school will start. Does this persist or will school start at a later date?

We cannot answer all of your questions in this context but we want to give you a few helpful information and we want to try answering a few questions that might be in your head.

Please have a look at the following information. You can find them in German, Arabic, Farsi and English. If you have other questions, simply contact us by email or phone!

Best regards

SOS-Familienzentrum

## **1. Important dates and deadlines**

If your child was born between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014, it is going to start school in summer 2020. Registration in the primary school has already been made. The responsible primary school is usually the closest public primary school to your home. If you would like another school for your child, you have to apply for admission to another school. The application can only be accepted if there are free places at the desired school. The school is going to tell you whether the application has been complied. This should already have been done - or be done soon.

After registration your child is usually be examined by a school doctor through the Child and Adolescent Health Service. Maybe you were lucky – but in many cases the examination has been cancelled because of the current situation. Upon request, the health authority pointed out that school entrance examinations are no longer going to take place until the end of June. In addition, the open school examinations are not rescheduled. However, your child will start school despite the absence of an examination.

Based on current knowledge, the planned date of enrollment is going to be retained. According to current knowledge, the schooling of the first graders in Berlin should take place on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Regular classes are scheduled to begin again on the following Monday, August 17, 2020.

In the event of important changes, you are going to be informed by the school office, the health office or your child's school by telephone or by post. Keep calm and wait!

## **2. Application for additional funding and support**

If you need a place in the after-school care center for your child, you have to apply for it in the respective school. The form is available at school, in the youth welfare office or online at:

[www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/service/formulare/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/service/formulare/)

The completed application must be submitted to the youth welfare office no later than three months before the start of the school year. Additional support and support is free of charge for you in the first two school years.

Also free are:

- lunch (Important: Participation in lunch must be registered. The order is made either at the school or directly from the food provider. This is handled differently. If you have any questions, please contact the school management or the staff at the after-school care center.)
- schoolbooks
- BVG-ticket (Important: The ticket must be applied for.)

### **If you need help with the application - contact us!**

Ms. Jäckel will be happy to help you: 030.56891024 or [Annabell.Jaekel@sos-kinderdorf.de](mailto:Annabell.Jaekel@sos-kinderdorf.de)

### **3. Which materials does my child need?**

Every child needs a bag at the start of school to be able to transport learning materials. If it is financially difficult for you to pay for it yourself, there are facilities in the district that distribute free bags to families in need. If necessary, you can contact us. We are happy to help you with the placement!

Every child needs different learning materials before starting school. The parents receive a list of those materials from the respective school. This list should be followed. In any case, it is important to attend the get-to-know evenings or information events for school beginners. Or find out what your child needs before the end of the summer vacation.

Children also need a school cone from their parents when they start school. It is filled with numerous things such as pens, cuddly toys, good luck charms, books, sweets and fruits. It embellishes the day for your child! School cones can be purchased or made yourself.