



GERMANY

| | Kind of structures Coverage | Average size of the groups | Official ratio | Staff jobs and initial training level | | Legal participation conditions (free or obliged) | Financing aspect (parents costs) |
|---------------------|--|--|----------------|---|---|---|--|
| Before preschoolage | Crèches - Age-specific groups - Birth to 1 year - Birth to 3 year - 1 to 2 years Age-mixing groups - 1 to 6 year - 2 to 6 year - 1 to 10 year - Birth to 12 year Nestgroups Pu : public PA : private with official accreditation PRA : private without official accreditation → All three are possible • 23,1 % of the 0-2 year old children attend ECEC (OECD, 2010) | In Crèches (under 3) the average size is 11. | 1:5,5 | Jobs - Trainees - <i>Kinderpfleger</i> (pedagogical assistants) - <i>Erzieher</i> (EYP) - <i>Kindheitspädagogin</i> (BA) Early years pedagogue | In.Tr.lev. <i>Kinderpfleger (pedagogical assistants)</i> → Vocational training leading to Level 2 and acknowledgement of the profession by the state. <i>Erzieher (EYP)</i> → Vocational training leading to Level 3 in general, Level 4 in educational studies and the acknowledgement by the state. → BA in Early Years 0-12 years (acknowledgement by the state). (Level 6) → MA in Early Years (Level 7) | Compulsory schooling starts at the age of 6 (with the 1st grade in primary school) There is no obligation but the right for participation is given by the state (will begin in August 2013). | Pu : public PRA : private with official accreditation Depends on the institution. If parents can't afford the place the youth welfare service finances it. Depending on - « the hours bought for education ». - The kind of structure - The provider Costs may lay between 150€ und 300€ per month (for the majority). However, costs may also be cheaper and even more expensive. PRA : private without official accreditation High costs ; depending on the institution. No support of the youth welfare service |
| Preschoolage | Age-mixing groups - 1 to 6 year - 2 to 6 year - 1 to 10 year - Birth to 12 year - 3 to 6 year - 3 to 6 year with special trainee for 5-6 year olds - 3 to 12 year Pu : public PA : private with official accreditation PRA : private without official accreditation → All three are possible • 93,9% of the 3-5 year old children attend ECEC (OECD, 2010) | In preschool groups (over 3) the average size is 23. | 1:11,5 | Jobs See above | In.Tr.lev. See above | There is no obligation but the right for participation is given by the state. | See above |



| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational training for EYPs (a lot of practical training but also theoretical backgrounds). However, no academic training and academic degree. Early Education Boom (since PISA)! New forms of training (academic level), public benefits and grants for the sector but also for research... All institutions (Pu : public and PRA : private with official accreditation) receive the same amount of money by the state. Parents with low socio-economic background receive benefits of the youth welfare service Preschool and crèche institutions are involved in a lot of integration and inclusion programs. One of the most discussed topics in education! → Preschool has moved away from just « holding institutions » to institutions having an educational focus and interest on the child. → Education has become important for the whole society. The awareness to education and the way on how children are seen has increased. Cooperation with neurobiology and brain research! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> §24: The act must be fulfilled very fast. Therefore, no development in a qualitative sense. Quantity before quality: In terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of vocational training building structure the institutional standards At the moment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no specialized staff (educators) for under threes. Federal structure of Germany → 16 states, therefore 16 different educational systems, vocational trainings and curricula. No obligation in schooling! Low wage for EYPs in all preschool education → low appreciation compared to teachers in schools! Bad ratio: too many children for one EYP The chances of and success in education still depends on the academic and socio-economic background of the parents. All institutions (Pu : public and PRA : private with official accreditation) receive the same amount of money by the state. But: no orientation on the actual needs of individual institutions. |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> §24: Nationwide implementation of early years education. The possibility for an academic training and degree brings many chances for the whole educational sector. Early Education Boom (since PISA)! Appreciation of whole sector might profit! <p>Education has become important for the whole society. The awareness to education and the way on how children are seen has increased. → Even academics have realized that not only observable actions and success are important. Topics such as well-being, psychology support, relaxation is getting more and more important.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the educational system may lead to a elite structure because special programmes are more and more offered on a private sector and include high costs. EYPs having an academic degree often go to private providers (on-site day care or private institutions) because the wage is much higher. Overestimation of the child ! |

