

Daycare for the little ones

1. General practices

Depending on the canton of residence mandatory education in Switzerland usually starts when a child is 4 years old. She/he is then required to start preschool/*Kindergarten* (see also *Schools and Education* chapter). Prior to preschool, daycare has to be organized independently.

Note: In Switzerland the terms preschool and Kindergarten are used interchangeably.

Fees for daycare will most likely depend on your annual income; a day can cost anywhere between 80–130 CHF. Please request further information about what options are available locally or check the websites listed.

Childcare options

Playgroups

In Switzerland there are two types of playgroups. One is where parents stay with their children: while the children play with each other, the parents have the opportunity to exchange experiences.

In the other, parents are not present. For a few hours, children play with one another and are cared for by professionals or educators. These playgroups usually meet once or twice a week. In this chapter, when referring to playgroups, we will focus on this latter type.

Kinderkrippe/Kindergarten/Kinderhort

A *Kinderkrippe* is a place where you take your children for a half or a full day, minimum two days a week; this is the most common type of daycare. The facilities are often warm and homely environments. Children belong to different groups; each group consists of 8 to 10 children. Initially within each group, children are of various ages and later they are placed within the same age group.

Each group has 1 or 2 specially trained professionals who care for the children and sometimes there is an apprentice or a trainee to assist the group leader.

Fees for the *Kinderkrippe* usually depend on the annual net income of the parents, services provided and the child's age. The average cost is approximately 80–130 CHF a day per child.

Useful links:

- www.kinderkrippen-online.ch
- www.familienchwyz.ch
- www.liliput.ch
- www.familienplattform-ostschweiz.ch

Tagesmütter/Tagesfamilien

Another option for daycare is to take your child to an individual's private home or to a family. A *Tagesmutter* could also care for your child in your home – the equivalent of a nanny. A *Tagesmutter* is qualified to care for children. She usually cares for 2-5 children a day. You pay per hour and the fee is often determined on an individual basis. In some places fees depend on your annual income. You can request further information at the *Mütter- und Väterberatung* (see below) or check the following websites.

Useful links:

- www.liliput.ch
- www.tagesfamilien.ch

Special company offers

Some companies offer special daycare services. They reserved a block of spaces for children in childcare facilities. For more specific information on this service and whether or not your employer has such a plan check with your company.

Useful links:

- www.globesitters.org
- www.childcare.ch

2. Playgroups and daycare

Canton Zürich (ZH)

Adliswil

Pandalino

Children from 2 months to 5 years are welcome. The staff speaks German, English and Italian.

- [Kilchbergstrasse 29, 8143 Adliswil](http://www.kilchbergstrasse.29.8143.adliswil.ch)
- [Tel 043 377 98 33 or 076 368 16 01](tel:0433779833)
- info@pandalino.ch

- W www.pandalino.ch
- C Monday–Friday 07:15–18:30

Villa Luftibus

The Villa Luftibus had its grand opening in January 2009. There are 2 children's groups comprising various ages and one for infants only. English speaking children are welcome, however the language of communication at the facility is German.

- F Kilchbergstrasse 29, 8143 Adliswil
- Tel 044 710 17 77
- C Monday–Friday 07:00–18:00

Au/Wädenswil

Kiddies Care

Bilingual English/German daycare for children from 4 months to 6 years old. There are places for 30 children.

- F Seestrasse 295, 8804 Au
- Tel 043 833 03 50
- @ kiddiescare@bluewin.ch
- W www.kiddiescare.ch
- C Monday–Friday 07:00–18:30

Bülach

Kinderkrippe “Globi”

A warm and friendly place for children from 3 months until *Kindergarten* age. It is located near the station and has a nice little garden.

- F Hertiweg 11, 8180 Bülach
- F Administration: Schulstrasse 57, 8105 Regensdorf
- Tel 043 931 51 70
- @ globibuelach@kitafugu.ch
- W www.kitafugu.ch
- C Monday–Friday 06:45–18:00

Erlenbach

Apple Tree

This is a little heaven for mothers and their children. They offer a playgroup for toddlers from 18 months, a bilingual preschool and an after-*Kindergarten*-class. Excellent facilities with a fantastic range of toys and activities.

- F Schulhausstrasse 6, 8703 Erlenbach
- Tel 076 392 32 29
- @ locklin@bluewin.ch
- W www.apple-tree.ch
- C Depending on the group

Horgen

Kinderkrippe Seestern

Daycare for children 3 months and older. They have a well-structured program, and in addition they regularly allocate time to nature walks.

- F Kirchstrasse 5, 8810 Horgen
- Tel 043 244 06 06
- @ info@kinderkrippe-seestern.ch
- W www.kinderkrippe-seestern.ch
- C Monday–Friday 07:00–18:30

Kinderkrippe Stockerstrasse

Daycare for little ones from 8 months onwards.

- F Stockerstrasse 20, 8810 Horgen
- Tel 043 244 07 81
- @ krippestocker@horgen.ch
- W www.horgen.ch
- C Please contact them for details

KiTA Berghalden

They have 54 places available for children over 1 year old and 5 places for infants older than 3 months. There is a garden with a playground. They also have a school lunch program for *Kindergarten* children.

- F Rainweg 11, 8810 Horgen
- Tel 044 725 76 10
- @ info@kita-horgen.ch
- W www.kinderkrippe-horgen.ch
- W www.kita-horgen.ch
- C Monday–Friday 06:30–18:30

Kilchberg

Teddy's House Daycare

Bilingual English/German daycare center.

- F Bändlerstrasse 29, 8802 Kilchberg
- Tel 044 715 08 63
- @ info@teddyshouse.ch
- W www.teddyshouse.ch
- C Monday–Friday 07:00–18:00

Meilen

Kindertraum-Haus

Daycare for infants and children between 3 months and 4 years old. The infants and children are cared for in separate groups.

- F Sandra Taisch, Unot 22, 8706 Meilen
- Tel 043 844 07 08
- @ admin@kindertraum-haus.ch
- W www.kindertraum-haus.ch
- C Monday–Friday 07:30–18:30