

Sign this petition for a referendum!

Daycare children (Kitakinder) + Education right from the start = A big win for Berlin]

The future of our children is the future of our society. It's everyone's business! That is why it is essential to improve early childhood education and care. The precious time of pre-school development must be supported and furthered in the best possible way. This has been recognized by the Senat of Berlin in the "Berlin Educational Program", recently made law and which requires the adherence of all educational institutions.

However, no corresponding personnel planning policy has followed – the new responsibilities and aims and the increased quality demands cannot be met with the current ratio of daycare (Kita) personnel.

The current legal framework demands the following:

- Daycare centres are early childhood education institutions
- The support and language promotion in early childhood] is the foundation of education
- The successful implementation of the Berlin Education Program
- Action to integrate children with migration background

The result of a quick opinion poll by the "Landes-Elternusschuss-Kita" (Berlin Parent's Representative Assembly [for] Daycare) concerning the personnel situation for May 2007 shows: The new legal obligations cannot be met with current personnel planning.

- 94% say that there is a lack of well trained daycare professionals and pre-school teachers
- 34% say that this is due to staff sick leave
- 39% say that there is too much care work being done by untrained staff
- 39% say there is insufficient time] for the actual implementation of the Berlin Education Program
- 25% say that there is insufficient time for preparation and evaluation

In order to meet the extended demands that an effective implementation of the Berlin Education Program puts on trained staff we need to do the following:

- Provide 7 hours of educational time** – therefore part-time care for all children from the age of three without a means or needs assessment
- Offer comprehensive care and learning support** – therefore we call for more educationally trained staff in the Kitas
- Invest more time in child oriented educational planning** – therefore each member of staff is to be allocated five hours of preparation and appraisal time per week
- Guarantee well qualified staff** - therefore we need a firm commitment to a provision of further staff training of at least three days per year.
- Make the management of Kita-work more efficient** – therefore there needs to be one full-time manager per every hundred children

The gaps between the actual numbers of staff and the terms set out in the legal framework of the Berlin Education Program are obvious. This has driven the "Landes-Elternusschuss-Kita" (Berlin Parent's Representative Assembly Day-care) to act and petition for a referendum. In order to close the gaps and meet the terms of the legal framework the Kita-law has to be adapted accordingly.

The petition for a referendum is the right move towards an improvement of the current state of education. The first step in this direction requires 20 000 signatures from registered residents of Berlin.

What can you do?

Support us! Give us your signature! Everyone who is a registered voter of the city of Berlin is allowed to sign. One sheet of paper, one vote!

You can apply for a ballot paper yourself or download it from the internet. You may also photocopy the ballot paper and collect additional signatures. Go to: www.leak-berlin.de

Note! The ballot paper needs to be returned to your Kita, or the **LEAK**, or other return points in your area by **July 16th 2008**.

LEAK – Initiative
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