

Parents' Information on the BeoKiz Method

Dear parents, dear families,

starting with the school year 2024/25, the state of Berlin has begun to introduce to all day care centres and childminders a newly developed method to observe, document and evaluate your child's development - the BeoKiz method.

This letter is meant to inform you that your child's day care centre has been qualified to use the BeoKiz method and is now implementing it in their daily work.

What characterises the BeoKiz method?

The term is derived from the German words "Beobachtung" (observation) and "kindzentriert" (child-centred). This means that your child's needs and actions take centre stage.

The BeoKiz method supports the day care centre's educational experts in their professional work. It focuses on continuous observation of your child's development during everyday life. The holistic approach ensures that instead of only considering individual areas, the entire development is focused on. Through this conscious awareness, your child's needs, strengths and potentials can be identified even better.

Part of the BeoKiz method are the so-called "Berlin Milestones", which enable an assessment of your child's development. In addition to strengths and talents, this also makes it possible to identify any support needs your child may have. On the basis of the observations and their assessment, educational offers or support options for everyday life at the day care centre can be tailored directly to your child.

Your child's educational process is documented in a portfolio throughout their time at the day care centre.

How does the introduction of the BeoKiz method affect your child?

Systematic and holistic observation of your child's development and learning processes as well as documenting these observations are part of the professional work in every day care centre and an important quality feature of early childhood education in Berlin. On the basis of these observations, educational stimuli can be tailored to your child in order to support them in their upcoming developmental stage and to enhance their skills.

Until now, your child's development has been observed and documented in the language learning diary (Sprachlerntagebuch). The level of development was assessed using QuaSta (Qualifizierte Statuserhebung Sprachentwicklung - Qualified Status Survey for Language Development). However, scientific studies have led to a necessary improvement of the language learning diary and QuaSta which resulted in the development of the BeoKiz method. In 2025, the Berlin Educational Programme will be updated and republished. It will include the BeoKiz method and thus provide the basis for the educational work of your child's day care centre.

Your child is actively involved in shaping their educational processes. They express their likes and dislikes, which topics they find interesting, what they wonder about, they ask themselves how things work, show curiosity, pride, but also fear and sadness. The educational staff in the day care centres therefore reflect on their observations together with your child and allow them to co-create the documentation of their educational stories in the portfolio. By doing so, they contribute to your child's participation and self-awareness.

In the BeoKiz method, your child's development will be assessed with the help of the "Berlin Milestones". Twice (at two and a half and four and a half years), the findings of the assessment of the language development will be transferred digitally and completely anonymously to the Senate Administration for Education, Youth and Family. It is not possible to trace the data back to your child.

The digital transfer of the fully anonymised language assessment results complies with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

You will receive separate information from your day care centre about the transfer procedure before each of the two dates.

To ensure the best possible support for your child even beyond the day care period, your child's transition from day care to primary school also plays an important role in the BeoKiz method. The learning documentation is used to show the educational and developmental stages your child has achieved so far on the basis of the "Skills for the transition to primary school".

How does the introduction of the BeoKiz method affect you?

You are and will continue to be the most important persons for your child's development. Therefore, the parents' involvement is of great importance in the BeoKiz method. The findings from the observations provide the basis for the development talks with you. In order to support and promote your child's development in the best possible way, your day care centre's educational staff will discuss with you what your child is interested in and what developmental progress they have made.

You are also invited to participate in the creation of your child's portfolio. Your child will receive their portfolio at the end of their time at the day care centre.

In the last year of day care and before your child starts primary school, the educational staff in your day care centre will discuss with you the learning documentation and the educational and developmental steps your child has taken so far. The learning documentation can be passed on to the primary school. This helps your child to successfully manage the transition and enables the primary school to build on the individual support provided so far.

The prerequisite for this transfer is that you consent to the transfer prior to it in writing to the day care centre.

Further information on the BeoKiz method can be found at:

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/bildung/schule/bildungswege/fruehkindliche-bildung/>
or <https://www.kitearo.de/BeoKiz/>

The Berlin-wide introduction of the BeoKiz method is expected to be completed by the school year 2027/2028. This method does not only support the quality development in early childhood education. Above all, it helps to ensure that your child grows up with equal opportunities and with a focus on their needs.

I would like to thank you very much for participating in this process together with the day care centres.

With kind regards
On behalf of

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carsten Weidner', written in a cursive style.

Carsten Weidner

Head of Department Early Childhood Education and Day Care Senate Administration for
Education, Youth and Family