



INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

child care

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz

Welcome to Germany!

Finding reliable childcare is a key part of a smooth transition, and we're here to help you navigate the options available to you within the Kaiserslautern and Baumholder Military communities.

Understanding the Landscape: Waitlist & Priority Placement

It's important to know that demand for childcare services is high, and waitlists are common at most facilities. To maximize your chances of securing a spot, we strongly encourage you to place your name on the waitlist for as many centers as are convenient for your location and needs as soon as possible after you receive your PCS orders. Don't hesitate to apply to multiple centers!

Child Development Centers (CDCs) operate under a priority placement program designed to serve those with the greatest need. Understanding this system will help you manage expectations and plan accordingly. You can read more about the priority placement [here](#).

To register for the waitlist, families can visit: <https://militarychildcare.com/>

Beyond the CDCs: Additional Childcare Options

While CDCs are a fantastic resource, there are other excellent options to consider:

Family Child Care (FCC) Providers: FCC providers are independent business operators who provide childcare in their homes. They are vetted and regulated, offering a smaller, more intimate setting. FCC contracts are directly between you and the provider. You can find a list of certified FCC providers through <https://militarychildcare.com>.

Off-Base Licensed Childminders: Germany has a well-established system of licensed childminders, known as *Tagesmutter* (female) or *Tagsvater* (male). These individuals provide care in their homes and are licensed by the local *Jugendamt* (Youth Welfare Office). Finding a *Tagesmutter/Tagsvater* requires navigating the German system, but can be a wonderful option. If you need help navigating, you can reach out to the German-American Community Office: info@gaco-kl.de. To promote the coexistence of Germans and Americans, the first German-American Community Office was established in the city center of Kaiserslautern, at Lauterstraße 2 (Rathaus Nord), in February 2003.

