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That changes when school starts

The school year begins in mid-September. The first day of school often changes the daily routine for the whole family, and there will be a lot of changes for your child in particular.

School day

Classes usually start at 8:00 a.m. and end between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the 1st grade. Your child should be at school about 15 minutes before classes start. The children have an average of 24 lessons per week. You will receive a timetable for your child at the beginning of the school year.

School holidays

The school year has a total of 14 weeks of school vacations. The school administration will inform you about the dates of school vacations and school holidays.

Illness and accidents

If your child is ill and cannot attend school, you must inform the school before classes begin (8:00 a.m.). In the event of an accident on the way to school or at school, your child is insured through the school. In such cases, please inform the doctor that it was a school accident. Please also notify the school, as an accident report must be written there.

Field trips

Field trips are important for your child's motivation and for their integration into the class. Let your child participate in them. If the costs are too high for you, ask the Youth and Social Affairs Department of the City of Hof whether you can receive support from the education and participation package.

Parents' responsibilities

Independence and support

When your child starts school, they want and need to become more independent. However, the transition to school can be very stressful for your child. Now more than ever, your child needs your loving support. Give yourself and your child the time they need to adjust to this new experience.

Homework

Your child should do their homework as independently as possible. You can support your child by asking them to explain their homework to you, even if you are not familiar with the subject matter. It is good to show interest and talk to your child about school.
And: Praise your child! If your child repeatedly makes mistakes or does not feel like learning, remain patient. During extended lunchtime supervision and after-school care, your children will receive support with their homework.

Learning together

Take time every day to read and do math with your child in a playful way – for example, by checking the shopping bill together, having your child read aloud from books, or going to the children's theater and talking about it.

Cooperation with the school

It is important that you stay in contact with the school and the teachers. Attend parent-teacher conferences and consultation hours regularly.

At the beginning of the school year, parent representatives are elected at the school. You can participate in these elections and get involved in improving cooperation between the school and parents.

Parents who speak little German can get support in their language from cultural and language mediators. Ask your school for more information.

Afternoon and holiday care

All-day schools

As a rule, all-day schools teach and supervise your child throughout the entire day. Homework is completed at school.

Further information is available from your school or at:

Lunchtime supervision

During lunchtime supervision, children usually receive extended supervision, during which they can do their homework and take part in additional leisure activities.

Further information is available from your school or at:

After-school care

There are several after-school care centers in the city of Hof, where school-age children are looked after after school. They often get lunch there and can do their homework in a quiet environment.

Further information is available at:

Care and leisure activities during the holidays

During the holidays, the municipal youth services department of the city of Hof offers all children and young people interesting opportunities for meaningful leisure activities.

Further information is available at:

Information about the start of school

Stadt Hof

School Start Guide for Parents

Englisch

The Bavarian school system

Compulsory schooling and cut-off date regulations
School attendance is compulsory in Germany. A child who turns 6 by September 30 must attend school starting in September (the beginning of the school year).

School start corridor
For children who turn 6 between July 1 and September 30, the school start corridor applies. These children also take part in school registration. Parents then decide, after consultation and recommendation by the school, whether their child will start school in the coming school year or a year later.

Early school start
Children who turn 6 after September 30 can be allowed to start school early. The school will assess whether the child is able to participate well in lessons. The decision is made by the school administration.

Deferral
Children who turn 6 by September 30 can be deferred once, meaning they can start school one year later. The school administration decides on deferrals. Parents can submit a request.

School district requirement
Every child must attend school in the district where they live. You can obtain information about which elementary school your child will attend from the kindergarten or the state education authority.

Guest school application
Parents who wish to register their child at another school for important reasons can submit a guest school application. The application form is available at the school. The decision is made by the state education authority.

Mandatory language skills assessments and language support measures before school start
All children are invited to a language test at their local elementary school 1.5 years before school start to ensure that the language skills of all children are assessed in good time before school start.

Further information on the procedure and exceptions for participation can be found at:

Preparation in kindergarten

Bring your child to kindergarten regularly!
Kindergarten supports your child's healthy development and prepares them for school. During the preschool year in particular, children visit their future school or the library, for example. If you have any questions about starting school, you can talk to your child's educators.

Information evening for parents of preschool children
At this event at the kindergarten, you will receive important information and learn about the preparation programs offered by your kindergarten. You will also find out about important dates that are coming up for you.

German language support
Children can receive preschool language support if necessary. If a language other than German is spoken in the family, it is particularly important to take advantage of this valuable offer. This option is also available to children who do not attend kindergarten. Ask at your elementary school.

TIP! Keep an eye out for notices at the kindergarten informing you about important dates such as the first parents' evening at school, the school entrance examination or school registration.

Parent-teacher conferences and final meeting
Throughout your child's time at kindergarten, you can ask the educators about your child's development. At the final meeting, you will fill out the "Information for Primary School" form together, which you should bring with you when you register your child for school. Take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that your child's education begins early.

Preparation by parents

You too can support your child well before they start school: reading and speaking!
Read to your child! In German, but also in your family language. Show them that books are valuable. Take your child to the library. Talk and play a lot with your child. Let them help out in everyday life. Ask them questions and let them explain things to you.

TIP! It's great if your child can already do the following things by the time they start school:

- Get dressed and undressed on their own, go to the toilet on their own
- Use scissors, glue, and pens safely
- Follow rules in a group, listen, express wishes, tolerate conflicts, approach others
- Finish what they start

School route and bus costs
Practice the route to school with your child. Show them how to behave on the way so that they get to school safely. If the route to school is longer than 2 km, the costs for the bus ride can be covered. Parents must submit an application for this. You can obtain the form for this when you register your child for school.

Further information is available at:

School cone
At the start of school, children receive a school cone with small gifts and sweets from their parents or godparents. The school cone can often be made at kindergarten.

School registration

You will receive the date for your child's school registration from the kindergarten or future school.

School entry examination
The free school entry examination by the health authority takes place at the health authority. The parents are invited to an appointment by the health authority for the city and district of Hof. It is important that the child's father or mother is present during the examination. You must bring proof of the U9 pediatric examination with you to this examination.

Registration at school
The mother and/or father must be present in person with the child when registering at the school.

Playful trial lesson
When registering for school, your child will take part in a playful trial lesson. Teachers and educators will observe whether your child is able to participate well in the lesson.

Documents required for school registration:

- Child's birth certificate
- Residence permit/passport
- Custody order if parents are separated
- Examination report from the health department from the school entry examination (if already completed)
- Confirmation of the pediatric examination U9
- The form „Information for Primary School" completed in kindergarten with the teacher

Education and participation

Benefits for education and participation can be used to cover things like club fees for your child. You can also get set amounts to help with personal school supplies.

For more info and forms, check out:

Useful contacts

City of Hof
Youth and Social Affairs
09281 / 815 - 0
jugendundsoziales@stadt-hof.de

State Education Authority
09281 / 57325
post@schulamt-hof.de

Family and vacation offers

Project KiTa-Einstieg
09281 / 1401254
kita-einstieg@diakonie-hochfranken.de