



# Daycare for children under the age of six





Tip

In Denmark, parents will normally visit several daycare centres before deciding where they would like to sign up their child. Please call the daycare centre before you pay them a visit. Often they have special visiting days.

# Daycare (daginstitution) in Denmark

In Denmark, children can attend daycare from when they are six months old. Daycare consists of two levels:

- Nursery (vuggestue) for children between six months and three years.
- Kindergarten (børnehave) for children between three and six years.

An integrated daycare centre (integreret institution) houses both nursery and kindergarten under the same roof, allowing the child to go directly from nursery to kindergarten.

There are several 'forest kindergartens' (skovbørnehave) around Copenhagen, where children go to the countryside every day. If your child attends this kind of institution, the kindergarten will designate a bus pick-up spot where the children will be collected and dropped off at the same time every day.

## Other options

A private childminder (dagpleje) can also look after your child or your child can attend a private daycare centre where they speak English, as opposed to the municipal daycare centres. If you wish to use the private option, you can contact the childminder or institution directly or ask ISM for more information.

## Signing up for daycare

The child needs a CPR number in order to be signed up for daycare in Denmark. In order to get a CPR number, you must have an address in Denmark. Please read more about registration on the ISM website.

You sign up your child by contacting your municipality of residence. Depending on where you live, you can sign up your child when he/she is between four and six months old. Please contact your local daycare office (Pladsanvisningen) for more information.

Copenhagen municipality guarantees that your child can get into daycare within two months after you have signed up, and within a four-kilometre radius of where you live. If you prefer a daycare centre in a different location, you may have to wait longer than two months. In this case, you can sign up your child for three different nurseries in a prioritised order.

The nursery Studenterrådets Vuggestue prioritises children of employees at the University of Copenhagen, if there is availability. Please contact the nursery or ISM for more information.



## Cost of daycare

The local municipality manages the childcare programmes and co-finance the centres with the rates paid by the parents. The rates vary depending on the municipality in which you live and whether your child attends a nursery or a kindergarten. For example in Copenhagen, the monthly daycare rate ranges between DKK 2,800 and DKK 3,500 (approx. EUR 370 to EUR 470).

If you are living and working in Denmark, you may be entitled to receive child benefits for your children under the age of eighteen. The amount depends on the age of the child, but ranging between DKK 11,180 and DKK 18,000 annually (approx. EUR 1,505 to EUR 2,420). Please read more about how to apply on [www.lifeindenmark.borger.dk](http://www.lifeindenmark.borger.dk)

## Expectations and common practice in Danish daycare centres

The Danish daycare system builds on mutual expectations. It means that as a parent you will be expected to take part in your child's daily life in the daycare. It is common practice to talk daily with your daycare giver about your child's everyday life.

By law, daycare centres in Denmark must follow a curriculum that strengthens the child's social, spoken and kinetic skills. A majority of the staff members have a three and a half year's education within pedagogy (pædagogik). The staff will focus on teaching the children how to engage in social contexts and teach them values such as empathy and responsibility for themselves and those around them.

Most daycare centres will expect you to encourage your child to be self-reliant, for example by learning to take off their shoes and jackets. Being self-reliant is considered an important quality as this strengthens the child's self-esteem.

When your child begins daycare, it is normal procedure that one parent comes along with him/her for at least a week to help the child adjust to the daycare system. The staff will tell you about the procedure and together you will make a plan that will suit you and your child.

### Language

In all municipal daycare centres, the spoken language is Danish and children who have a different language background are stimulated to learn the Danish language. At the age of three, all children who do not have Danish as their mother tongue will be language-assessed so the daycare giver can provide the child with the right help to learn Danish.

Once or twice a year, a parents' meeting is held, either alone with your child's daycare giver or with other parents. Here you will receive information on the daycare centre's educational goals. Under Danish law, you are entitled to ask for an interpreter if you do not understand Danish.

### Outdoor activities

In most nurseries in Denmark, children will sleep outdoors in a stroller or a crib until they are two years old. The nursery will ensure that the strollers are well insulated and inform you on what clothes to bring so that your child can sleep outdoors properly clothed.

The weather in Denmark can be wet and windy, yet most children in daycare centres are taken outdoors to play or to go for trips regardless of the weather. Rainwear and rubber boots are standard clothing for children in daycare, along with a one-piece winter suit that covers the whole body (flyverdragt). The staff are always prepared to offer advice and information on what clothes your child needs to bring.





## Example of a typical day in a daycare center

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Most daycare centres have a kitchen that provides hot and cold meals. If your child has allergies, you will need a medical certificate from your doctor so the daycare can make food that suits your child's diet.

06:00

Most daycare centres open at 6:00 in the morning where all the children are offered breakfast. There will be toys for those who have already eaten and prefer to play instead.

07:30

At 7:30, all children and staff go to their designated rooms, and infants who need to sleep will be taken care of.

08:30

Around 8:30-9:00 all children will be served some fruit and bread, and the day's activities will start, for example going on excursions or playing outside.

10:30

At 10:30, the preparation for lunch begins, and in some daycare centres, the children help to set the table with an adult.

The children who need to sleep after lunch will have that opportunity.

14:00

At 14:00, the children usually have fruit, bread or yoghurt and then resume their activities.

16:30

At 16:30, the children who have not been picked up are gathered in the same room until closing time, which for most daycare centres is around 17:00.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact:

- International Staff Mobility Office  
Daycare coordinator:  
Dorte Tornehave Kampman on  
+45 3532 4460 / [interstaff@adm.ku.dk](mailto:interstaff@adm.ku.dk)
- Your municipality's daycare  
office (Pladsanvisningen).  
This is where you sign up  
your child for daycare.

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