

Diakonie Bethanien  
Buckhauserstrasse 36  
8048 Zürich

Phone 058 204 80 80  
info@bethanien.ch

# Acclimatisation Concept KiTas Bethanien

As of August 2019

## **1. Acclimatisation Concept KiTas Bethanien**

"A new period begins for the child and the parents with the entry into the KiTa. We enable the child a gentle transition into the new area of life of the KiTa by providing a professional and individually designed settling-in period and in the best interest of the child. During the settling-in period with father or mother, the child is given the necessary time to become familiar with the caregivers and the new environment. This intensive acclimatisation, which is adapted to the child, has a positive long-term effect on the child's well-being." (Pedagogic Concept/KiTas Bethanien, 2014).

### **1.1 Before the Entry**

"During the initial interview by the management, the parents receive information on contractual and operational provisions and on the settling-in period, which is carried out by the responsible caregiver of the group. In the settling-in phase, the foundation for a trusting cooperation between parents, child and caregiver is laid. During the acclimatisation, the parents gain an intensive insight into the daily work and can experience the family-friendly climate at the KiTas Bethanien. The gentle settling-in period is the first building block of the educational partnership." (Pedagogic Concept/KiTas Bethanien, 2014).

Parents are offered to have the entry interview with the responsible caregiver of the group two weeks before the child's entry. However, the entry interview will take place on the first day at the latest. In this case, more time should be planned for the acclimatisation.

Among other subjects, the entry interview serves to get to know each other and to clarify questions. The responsible caregiver will accompany the child during the settling-in period and is the contact person for the parents.

### **1.2 Acclimatisation**

The parents are getting involved in the settling-in process. For a healthy development of the child, it is therefore advisable that the acclimatisation to the new group takes place gradually and with sufficient time. The separation from the child and the uncertainty of how they will find their way in the new environment is a heavy strain on many parents. This makes it all the more important for the child to be accompanied by someone familiar, as this will enable the child to get accustomed with the rules and daily routine in the KiTa and also to build up a solid and stable relationship with the caregiver. Parents also gain a first impression of their child's new living environment. During this time, the intensive exchange between parents and caregiver is an important foundation stone for a trusting and educational partnership between parents and KiTa.

#### **1.2.1 Process of Acclimatisation**

##### **First Phase**

- The acclimatisation begins with the contractually agreed date of entry and usually lasts between one and a half to three weeks. The settling-in period must be adapted to the individual needs of the child. The parents accompany the child by the hour during this time. In our facilities the ideal time for this is between 9.00 and 11.00 or between 14.00 and 16.00.
- After each acclimatisation day, a check is made to see whether adjustments need to be made in the further process.
- Regardless of the age of the child, there should be no separation between parents and child in the first two days. The first days of acclimatisation play an important role for the child and should not be burdened by the separation. In the presence of the parents, it is easier for the child to familiarise itself with the new environment.
- The parents serve as a "secure base" to which the child can go if something unexpected happens or if he or she feels for some reason that they need support.
- The parents take a passive role, but pay attention to the child's signals.
- The caregiver carefully tries to make contact with the child in a playful way.

- As infants have a distinct sense of smell, the carer should not wear perfume or only a subtle fragrance. He/she should not change his/her appearance during the settling-in period.
- It is helpful if the parents bring an object for the child that smells like them (e.g. mother's or father's scarf).

#### Second Phase

- A first attempt for a separation takes place between the second and third day at the earliest.
- Immediately upon arrival in the group, the parents wait for the moment when the child turns away from them and turns to the new environment. The parents then go to the child, say goodbye -brief and in a clear way- and leave the room. They do this even if their child protests. The parents stay close by but invisible to the child.
- If the child can be easily soothed by the caregiver or if it hardly reacts at all, the separation should take about 30 minutes.
- If the child is disturbed or difficult to calm, the separation should not last longer than two to five minutes.

#### Third Phase

- The caregiver now increasingly takes over the care of the child (changing diapers, feeding).
- The caregiver offers oneself specifically as a play partner and reacts to the child's signals.
- The separation times are extended daily.
- The child can already sleep in the KiTa. Ideally, the child is laid down in the presence of the responsible caregiver and is greeted by the same caregiver when he or she wakes up.

#### Fourth Phase

- During this phase, the parents are no longer present at the KiTa, but are available at any time.
- The acclimatisation process is basically completed as soon as the child accepts comfort from the carer and shows interest in the everyday life of the KiTa (people, play offer) while parents are absent.
- As a formal conclusion, a short evaluation meeting takes place after the acclimatisation period.

### **1.3 Charging of Settling-in Period**

Due to the higher effort required during the settling-in period (usually 1:1 care) and its effects on the caregiver and the group, the full rate will be charged from the first day in accordance with the care contract.

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3.03.01 KO Acclimatisation KiTas Bethanien

Andreas Winkler  
Director