



**Press Release - 320/04/2020**

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## **State government and local authorities ease burden on parents - no parental fees to pay for child day-care or Open All-day School in May**

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### **State government announcement:**

The coronavirus pandemic is a major challenge for many families and places a particular burden on parents of infants and primary school children. In order to support these parents in the current situation, the state and the local authorities are again waiving the charging of parental fees for child day-care and for all-day and other care services in schools in May as they did in April. This applies right across the state. Regardless of whether or not parents make use of any childcare services on offer, they thus do not need to pay any parental fees for May either.

The deputy minister president, Family and Children's Affairs Minister Joachim Stamp said: "We have expanded the provision of emergency care and extended this as of today to cover the children of working single parents as well. However, despite this the offer of child day-care or attending an Open All-day School (Offene Ganztagschule) is not available to the majority of families. We therefore want to relieve the families of having to pay the fees for a further month. At the same time, we are working on ways of reopening educational services for our children in many small steps."

Local Authorities Minister Ina Scharrenbach explained: "In conjunction with the local authorities, we have again reached a fair agreement in the interest of families in North Rhine-Westphalia. At this difficult time, the state government has agreed to continue funding the child-care and educational establishments and we are willing to cover half of the local authorities' lost income from parental fees. This is a strong sign of shared responsibility and collaboration in North Rhine-Westphalia."

Schools and Education Minister Yvonne Gebauer emphasised: “The agreement means that parents are being relieved of the burden of paying fees for Open All-day School (OGS), lunchtime care and other forms of childcare for the month of May as well.”

***If you have any questions, please contact the respective ministry's press office:***

***Ministry for Children, Families, Refugees and Integration (tel. 0211 837-2417).***

***Ministry for Schools and Education (tel. 0211 5867-3505).***

***Ministry for Community, Local Authority Affairs, Building and Equality (tel. 0211 8618-4246).***

***This press release is also available online on the state government website [www.land.nrw](http://www.land.nrw)***

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