

Parents Associations in kihz Daycare centres

The role and function of the Parents Associations have been defined in conjunction with the parents of children attending kihz daycare centres. Each of the Foundation's daycare centres has a Parents Association.

Aims of a Parents Association

The Parents Association is set up to represent the interests of parents with respect to the daycare centres and the kihz Foundation and to act as their point of contact. It is designed to encourage and maintain communication not only among parents, but also between parents and the Head of each daycare centre. When required, the General Management of the kihz Foundation can become involved.

Structure and function

The Parents Association is a consultative body. It is included in the statutes of the kihz Foundation as an organisational unit and is firmly anchored in the Corporate Guidelines. However, it is not an organ of the Foundation and therefore not bound to formal rules and regulations. Responsibility lies with the parents of the children attending each kihz daycare centre for setting up a Parents Association.

In the event of important changes in the organisation of the kihz daycare centre planned by the kihz Foundation General Management or by the Head of the daycare centre, the Parents Association is to be consulted before such changes are definitely decided upon and communicated to the parents. The Parents Association is free at any time to submit suggestions that would improve services. The Daycare centre Head will examine and respond to these suggestions. When opinions differ, or when the matter needs the attention of a higher authority, the kihz Foundation General Management will intervene.

The Head of the daycare centre has the right – in collaboration with the Parents Association – to modify these regulations to meet new situations provided that the basic principle is not affected.

Elections, seats, meetings, resources

Each Parents Association is formed of a group of parents of children attending the particular daycare centre. It can comprise up to seven members who are elected for a one-year period. Repeat elections are possible. The Parents Association represents the interests of all members of the daycare centre groups. In the case of large kihz daycare centres, it is therefore recommended that each group votes for up to 2 parent representatives. In the case of kitas with only one group, only 1-2 persons may be elected as representatives.

Where required, the Parents Association can be awarded a small budget, designed to cover expenses for necessary services - such as making photocopies or telephone calls - that cannot be carried out in the daycare centre. The size of the budget is specified in the regulations. The Parents Association can decide if one of its members is to serve as contact person for the kita Head. The Parents Association meets as often as is necessary and decides itself how to communicate its activities to the other parents. This should however take place at least once before the end of the kita year (in July).