

Participant information for the study: "Data for Action for Preschool Children" (KitaGesund)

Dear parents,

Thank you for your interest in our scientific study! We want to find out what helps children be healthy. The results can be used to develop promising health promotion offers for children. We cordially invite you to take part! First of all, we would like to tell you about the study itself, the handling of the research data, your right to withdraw, and the relevant contact persons.

If you wish to support the study, please confirm this by signing the enclosed declaration of consent.

1. Who are we and who is undertaking the project?

The project "Data for Action for Preschool Children" (KitaGesund) is funded by the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG). The Institute and Polyclinic of Occupational and Social Medicine (IPAS) at TU Dresden is the head of the study (director: Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Seidler, MPH). Health Departments from the cities of Dresden, Potsdam, and Berlin are participating in the study.

2. Why is this study being conducted?

We want to develop needs-based health promotion offers for children. We need better information to do this. We therefore kindly ask you to participate in our parent survey. We are interested in:

- Your assessment of your child's health behavior and well-being,
- Information about yourself – because you are your children's most important reference person,
- your everyday family life.

We link this information with the data collected as part of the pediatric and adolescent medical examinations in kindergarten (Kita) and before school admission. This gives us a comprehensive idea of children's health development. In our study, the names of the children are not mentioned in connection with the data (examination data, parent survey data), and all data is pseudonymized¹.

3. How does the survey work?

All families whose children attended the medical examination in preschool facilities in Neukölln in 2023 are sent this letter asking them to participate in the study. The questionnaire will take about 15 minutes to complete.

4. Are there any benefits and/or risks to me if I take part?

If you participate in our study it will help to assess the health situation of children in Berlin and across Germany. **For the results to be meaningful, we need a high participation rate!** There are no risks associated with taking part and there will be no costs for you.

5. Voluntariness and confidentiality

Participation in this project is voluntary and is separate from the medical examination in preschool facilities.

Your data will be treated with strict confidentiality and only evaluated for scientific purposes. All employees are bound to confidentiality.

You can revoke your consent to participation and data processing at any time without giving a reason. You will not suffer any disadvantages as a result. Please address the declaration of revocation to the survey center (Dr. Daniel Kämpf, Poliklinik für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin, Medizinische Fakultät der Technischen Universität Dresden, Senefelderstraße 2, 01307 Dresden; contact person: Katrin Liesk Biskop, E-Mail: katrin.liesk-biskop@tu-dresden.de; tel.: +49 (0) 351 458-3185

All data collected from you will then be deleted. Data processing remains lawful until the time of revocation.

You have the right to complain to the supervisory authority if you believe that the processing of your data is not lawful (contact the appropriate supervisory authority: Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information tel.: 030 / 13889-0, email: mailbox@datenschutz-berlin.de).

6. Who do I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact the study coordinator for Berlin: Jeffrey Butler, jeffrey.butler@tu-dresden.de, tel.: 0351 3177-441 (Sekretariat: Ina Voigt)

¹ The child's name is replaced by a combination of numbers. Only the number combination is used in the evaluations.

7. How can I participate in the study?

The study collects data using a written survey.
If you would like to take part in the study:

- (1) Please confirm your consent to participate by signing the enclosed declaration of consent.
- (2) Complete the questionnaire, put it in the small envelope, and seal it.
- (3) Put the small envelope into the large envelope along with the signed declaration of consent.
- (4) Please mail the large pre-addressed envelope ("postage payable by the addressee")

8. What happens with my data?

Your data (name, address, etc.) will not be stored and reported on together with the research data (parent survey). To ensure this, three separate study centers will be set up:

- (1) The **recruiting center** in the district office of Berlin-Neukölln (contact: Dr. Birte Krutz, Health Department, Child und Youth Health Services, 12040 Berlin; E-Mail: Birte.Krutz@bezirksamt-neukoelln.de)
- (2) The **survey center** in the Poliklinik für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin, Medizinische Fakultät der Technischen Universität Dresden, Senefelderstraße 2, 01307 Dresden; contact person: Katrin Liesk Biskop, E-Mail: katrin.liesk-biskop@tu-dresden.de; tel.: +49 (0) 351 458-3185
- (3) The **evaluation center** in the Institute für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin TU Dresden (contact: Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Seidler, MPH; Medizinische Fakultät der TU Dresden, Institut für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin, Löschersr. 18, 01307 Dresden, E-Mail: arbsozph@mailbox.tu-dresden.de)

Responsibilities of the recruiting center:

The recruiting center will contact you by mail and request that you take part in the study. To link your research data (survey) with your child's examination data (kindergarten and school admission examinations), we will replace your child's name with a combination of numbers (pseudonymization). A list is created containing only the names of the participating children and the assigned number. This list (assignment list) is stored securely in the Poliklinik für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin of the Technical University of Dresden.

The assignment list is necessary to:

- evaluate the data from the questionnaire without knowing your name and address;
- to enable the linking of the data from the questionnaires with the data from the pediatric and adolescent medical examinations and
- to guarantee your right to revocation, as this requires the declaration of consent to be matched to the questionnaire.

A staff member from the survey center will also digitalize the results of your child's examination in the Health Department Neukölln and pass them on in pseudonymized form to the evaluation center for evaluation. Again, your child's name will have been replaced with a combination of numbers.

Responsibilities of the survey center:

The Poliklinik für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin of the TU Dresden receives your completed study materials by mail and creates the assignment lists. It will label the declaration of consent and the small sealed envelope containing the completed questionnaire with the number assigned to your child. The declarations of consent are stored securely at the Poliklinik für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin, Medizinische Fakultät der Technischen Universität Dresden. The small envelope remains sealed and is forwarded to the evaluation center. Employees of the **Poliklinik für Arbeits- und Sozialmedizin of the Technischen Universität Dresden (survey center) do not have access to your questionnaire.**

Responsibilities of TU Dresden (evaluation center):

The employees of TU Dresden (evaluation center) open the small envelope with the questionnaire. The questionnaire is entered into a database together with the combination of numbers on the envelope. The questionnaire data is linked to your child's examination data (kindergarten examination and school admission examination) using the combination of numbers, stored electronically, and evaluated by the evaluation center. **The evaluation center does not know the names of the participating children or their addresses.**

All data collected as part of the study will only be used for research purposes and will not be passed on to third parties. Once the data has been collected and analyzed it will be used anonymously in scientific publications. The data will be fully anonymized², which means it is not possible to use it to identify individuals. Your questionnaires with the number combination (without names and addresses) will be stored for 10 years following Good Epidemiological Practice at the evaluation center, after which they will be destroyed. The data is protected against unauthorized access. Similarly, the assignment lists with the children's names and the number combinations are kept at the survey center for 10 years and are then destroyed. All members of the study team are sworn to secrecy. The provisions of the Data Protection Act (DSG) as amended are complied with.

² To anonymize the data, the number combination is deleted. This makes it impossible to identify individuals.