

Inclusive Childcare in Integration Courses: Necessary Adjustments to the Program “Integrationskurs mit Kind Plus”



NOW! Nicht Ohne das Wir

About us



„NOW! Not without the We“ is the self-advocacy organisation of refugees with disabilities. We are refugees ourselves and we have a disability. Since our arrival in Germany we have been facing barriers. But in our group we find solidarity and understanding. We mutually strengthen each other and work together for an inclusive society.

We ensure that refugees with disabilities and their families can live better lives in Germany.

The "Integrationskurs mit Kind Plus" program provides valuable support for parents with refugee backgrounds by enabling them to participate in integration courses through the provision of accompanying childcare. However, the needs of children with disabilities, especially those with cognitive impairments, are not adequately addressed in the current childcare offerings. This gap complicates the integration of affected families into German society. This appeal highlights existing issues and outlines necessary adjustments to ensure inclusive childcare within the program.

Challenges to Integration for Parents of Children with Disabilities due to a Lack of Inclusive Childcare Options

Parents of children with disabilities face numerous challenges that go beyond the requirements of raising and caring for children without disabilities. Mothers, in particular, who still often take on the bulk of caregiving responsibilities, must manage not only the daily family life surrounding the care and support of their child but also additional tasks such as coordinating doctor's appointments, applying for aids and therapies, and organizing appropriate educational offerings. These tasks often require strong German language skills, which can generally only be acquired if their children are cared for during their participation in language courses.

However, many existing childcare offerings are not tailored to meet the needs of children with cognitive or physical disabilities. The inadequate consideration of children with disabilities in the childcare program significantly hinders the social and professional integration of affected families. Parents, particularly mothers, are thus forced to limit their participation in integration courses, and consequently, their professional development, to care for their children themselves. This leads to social isolation and increased physical and emotional stress, often impacting single mothers the hardest. In the long term, the lack of specialized childcare facilities exacerbates poverty and social exclusion.

Our Demands:

We call for the expansion of the "Integrationskurs mit Kind Plus" program to include a training module on the topic of children with disabilities, so that childcare staff are trained to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Special attention should be given to children with cognitive impairments, as they often require complex support. The modules should include practical training on topics such as assisted communication, inclusion strategies, and dealing with challenging behavior.

It is essential that these training modules be developed in collaboration with multidisciplinary experts from the fields of special education, psychology, and inclusion, and that parents of children with disabilities are involved in the design phase. This is the only way to ensure that

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the content is up-to-date and tailored to the needs of children with disabilities.

Urgent Need for Action:

Since the “Integrationskurs mit Kind Plus” program is supported until the end of 2026, it is of utmost importance that the necessary adjustments are implemented quickly. Only in this way can it be ensured that children with disabilities and their families have equal opportunities for integration into German society.

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This appeal is supported by:

