

Policies for children and families in Germany

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Bundesministerium
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und Jugend

Policies for children and families in Germany

- **1. What is family, and what are the objectives of family policy?**
- **2. Situation of children and families in Germany**
- **3. Policies for children and families in Germany:**
 - **Material security**
 - **Time for family**
 - **Quality childcare**
 - **Equal opportunities for all children**
- **4. Targeted support of lone parents**

What does 'family' mean?



Germany's Basic Law:

Comprehensive community of parents and children; also includes step families and foster families



Civil law:

Parents = parental custody and relative

No generally applicable definition of family in the law



Statistics:

Families = households in which underage children live with one or several adults



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BMFSFJ:

Family is wherever people take responsibility for each other in the long term, regardless of their religious, political, ideological or sexual orientation. This includes married and unmarried couples with children as well as lone parents, separated parents, step families and patchwork families, rainbow families and families that look after relatives with care and assistance needs.



What does family look like in Germany?

- *12 million families – including various types of family forms*
- *14 million children and adolescents*
- *Households: mostly small – only nuclear families (parents and their children)*
- *Birth rate: 1.35 children per woman*



“A society where people stick together and look out for each other is a strong society.

A core task of the state is to provide security – particularly in times when people are concerned about their future.

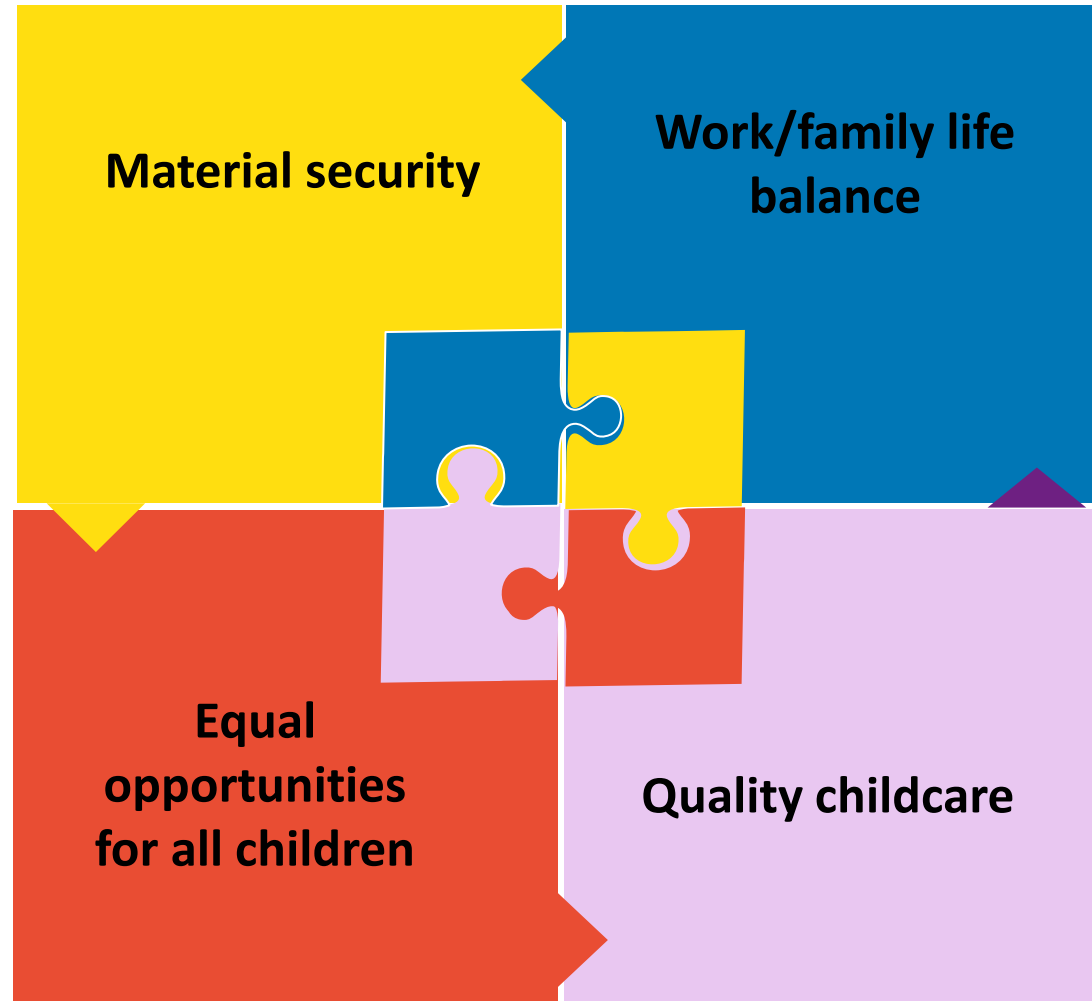
This is why justice and social equity, solidarity between generations and in society as a whole are the values underlying my policies for families.

Families should be able to rely on good, supportive framework conditions.

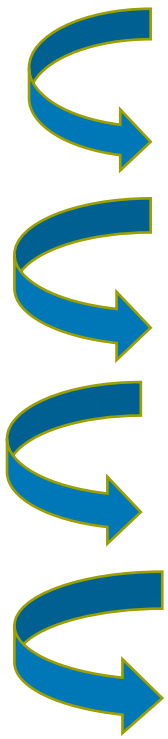
That’s why I am particularly committed to a basic child allowance, better opportunities to share tasks equally for a better balance between work and family life and good childcare and primary school care.”

From: Preface to the ‘Family barometer’
(*Familienbarometer*)

General objectives of policies for families



Family-friendly working environment = central locational factor!



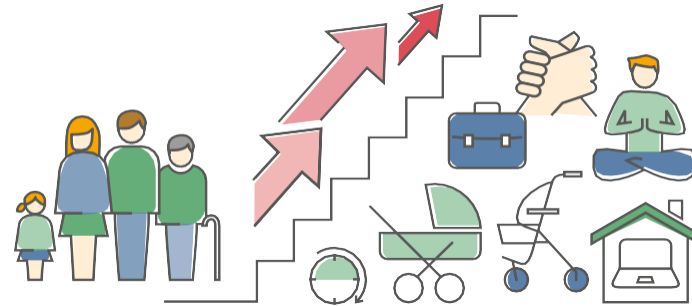
Economic stability for families

Working parents

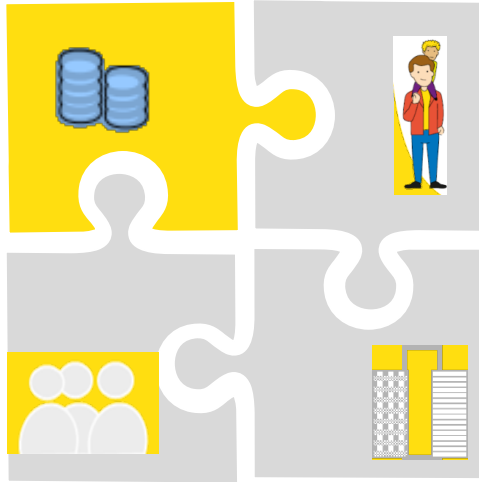
Work/family life balance

Family-friendly working environment

Securing skilled workers



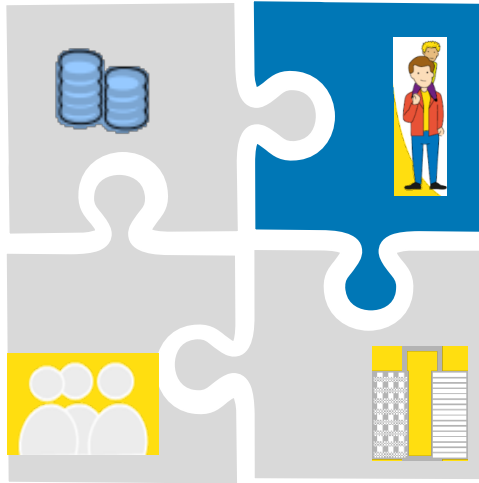
Material security



State benefits

- Child benefit
- Tax law: tax exemption of minimum subsistence level

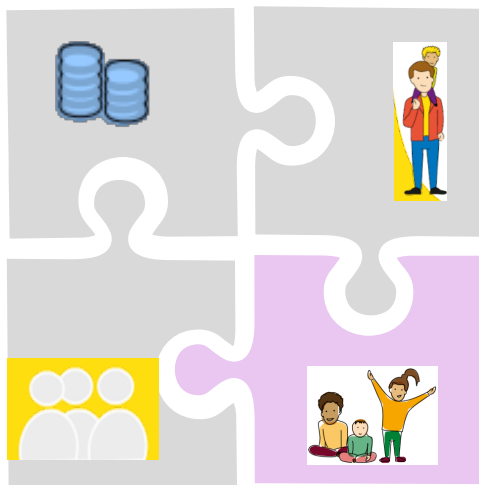
Work/family life balance



State benefits

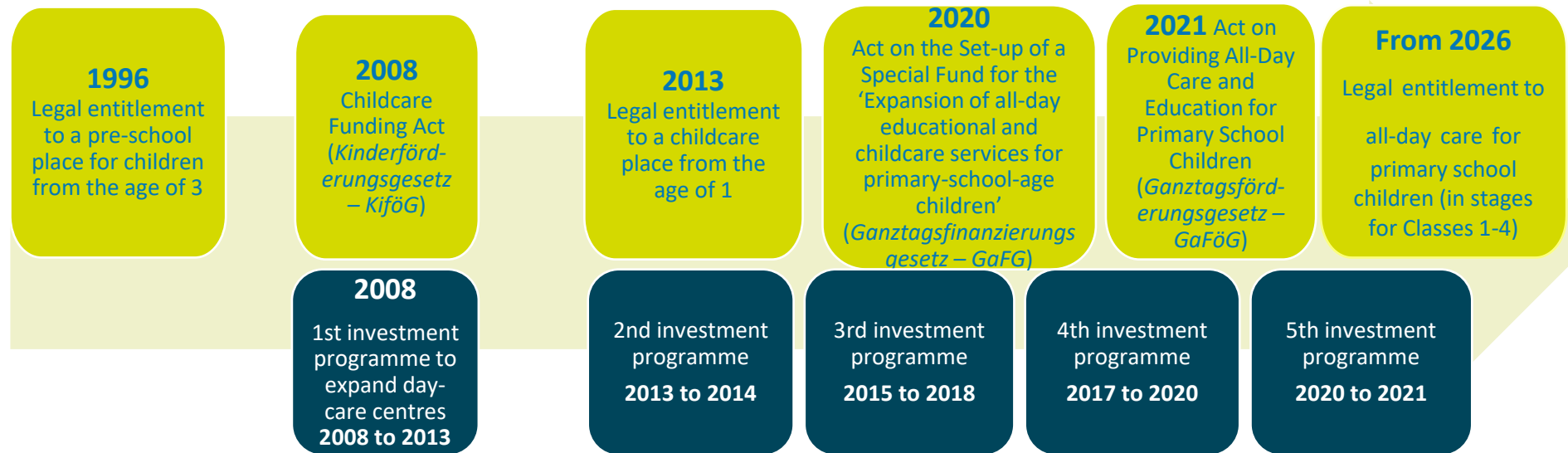
- Maternity protection
- Parental allowance and parental leave
- Child sick days

Quality childcare



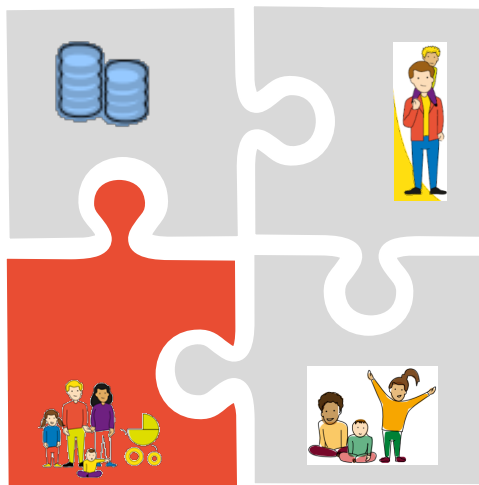
- Objectives: early childhood stimulation and work/family life balance
- More than 90% of children currently attend day-care

Quantitative expansion of child day-care



2008 to 2021: 5.4 billion euros invested and more than **750,000** additional day-care places created, **320,000** of which for children **under 3**

Equal opportunities for all children – state support (I)

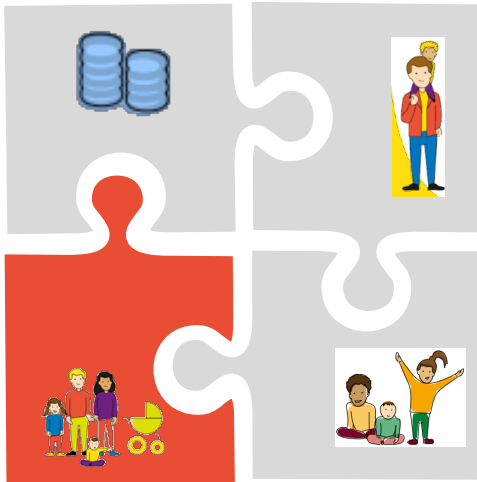


- Citizen's benefit
- Child supplement
- Housing allowance



Means-tested social security
benefits

Equal opportunities for all children – state support (II)



- National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”
- “ParentsChances – Strengthening families through parental supporters” (*“ElternChanceN – Mit Elternbegleitung Familien stärken”*) programme
- Early assistance
- “Starting chances” (*“Startchancen”*) programme

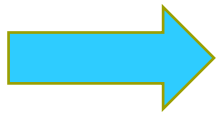


Access to social infrastructure

Lone parents receive targeted support



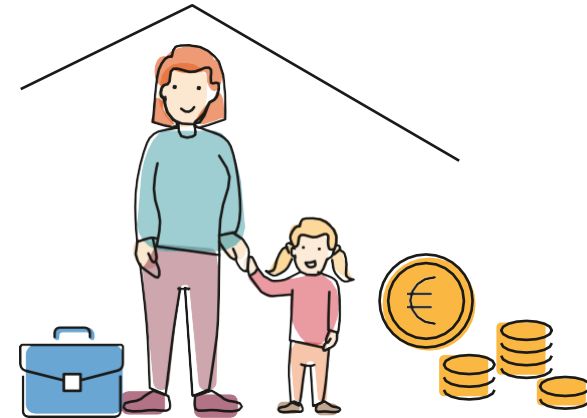
Tax law: tax credit for lone parents



Social welfare law: additional needs allowance for lone parents



Advance child maintenance payment



Outlook: significant future plans for policies for families

Continue to improve framework conditions for equal task-sharing for a better work/family life balance

Better support for lone parents and separated parents

Modernisation of the welfare state through digitalisation



Thank you!

For more information on our work, see our English website at <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/meta/en>

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