

Social and cultural participation

Culture – Sports – Free time



Take advantage of additional offers

The Job Centre helps and supports

Whether for tutoring, lunch at school and in daycare centres, school supplies, the sports club, or courses for small children - thanks to the Education and Participation Package, even children from low-income households can receive additional funds for educational and free-time activities. It is possible to receive several subsidies for different areas. Dipping into this brochure is, therefore, worth real money.

Are you interested?

On the following pages, you will learn more about this additional offer and how you can receive these benefits from the Jobcenter.

What is behind this offer?

Since 2011, the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been supporting around 2.5 million children and adolescents from low-income households with the Education and Participation Package.

So far, many families have been able to take advantage of the offer and, thus, support their children in developing their own strengths. The objective of this offer is to enable children and adolescents to participate in as many areas of social life as possible.

Children from refugee families can also receive benefits from the Education and Participation Package. The goal here is to prevent exclusion from society through education and to promote social contact.

With the Education and Participation Package – in German abbreviated to BuT - it no longer plays such a big role for children and adolescents if their parents have only little money at their disposal.

What areas are there in the BuT?

- Special tuition
- School supplies
- Student transport
- Lunch at daycare centres, school, and after-school care centres
- Excursions in day care and school
- Culture, sports, and free time



What is the Education and Participation Package?

Important: submit supporting documents!

Your local contact

To use the offers, you do not have to submit a separate application. However, the Jobcenter requires information and proof from you. You can obtain the necessary forms from your Jobcenter's Citizen's Office, the InfoCenter, via the hotline at 02921 106 500 or on the website

www.jobcenter-soest.de

Exception: the "special tuition". You have to make an application for this. You can also find this application form on the Jobcenter's website. Further information can also be found in this flyer under the category „Educational benefits“.

If you have any questions, your personal contact at the Jobcenter will help you. Families who do not receive benefits from the Jobcenter can obtain further information from the cities and municipalities in their respective places of residence.

Visit the Jobcenter in your area. You can find all four locations in the Kreis Soest here:

*Location Lippstadt
Am Siek 18-21
59555 Lippstadt*

*Location Warstein
Bahnhofstraße 10
59581 Warstein*

*Location Soest
Paradieser Weg 2
59494 Soest*

*Location Werl
Alter Markt 3
59457 Werl*

Who is entitled to the benefits of the Education and Participation Package?

In principle, children are entitled to benefits from the Education and Participation Package if they receive one of the following benefits:

- The unemployment benefit Bürgergeld,
- Social benefits (Sozialgeld)
- Social welfare benefits (Sozialhilfe)
- Benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act,
- The supplementary child allowance (Kinderzuschlag) or
- Housing benefits (Wohngeld)



Where do I apply for the benefits?

Participate in day care and school life

Lunchtime meals

When money is tight at home, cost contributions for meals are often a challenge for a family. Therefore, for students and for children who attend a daycare centre or a day nursery and who participate in the communal lunchtime meal, the costs can be covered by the Jobcenter.

With this financial support, your child can participate in eating together in a community. There are no costs for you.

For the Jobcenter to cover the costs, please submit the catering contract and the invoices as soon as you receive them.

Note:

The contractual partner of the lunch provider is always you and *not* the Jobcenter.



Excursions / School trips

The costs of excursions organised by the daycare centre, the school, the day care or the Offene Ganztagsschule (in short: OGS, an open all-day school) can also be subsidised. This also includes OGS activities during the school holidays.

Activities organised by schools and daycare centres include, for example, visiting an exhibition, visiting the theatre, visiting the zoo or an amusement park.

To cover the costs of trips lasting several days and one-day excursions, the Jobcenter needs the filled-out annexe „Trips and Excursions“. You can find all attachments at www.jobcenter-soest.de

Please note:

In general, the costs can be fully covered. Only on rare occasions are families required to pay their own share.



Educational benefits

Lunch – excursions/school trips

Participating and Keeping up

Personal school supplies

Many small and large items such as school bags, rulers, books and drawing materials are needed for everyday school life. To financially support parents in the purchase of these items, an additional amount of money (116 euros on the 01st of August, 58 euros on the 01st of February) will automatically be paid to you at the beginning of the school semester. These amounts have been adjusted annually from 2021 onwards. You do **not have to apply** for this as long as you are entitled to the unemployment benefit Bürgergeld or social benefits. Submitting a school registration certificate (Schulbescheinigung) may be required.

If you are entitled to housing benefits, supplementary child allowance or benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act, the application procedure may differ. Further information on this can be obtained from the cities and municipalities where you live.

Student transport

In particular, children attending a secondary school often have a long way to go to school. If costs for school transport are, therefore, incurred and these are not covered or not fully covered elsewhere (e.g., by the school authority via the Schülerfahrkostenverordnung, the School Transport Costs Ordinance), the expenses for school transport can be reimbursed in special cases. Ask the Jobcenter whether the travel costs for your child can be covered.



Supplementary school tuition

Does your child need help at school? Then, additional support in the form of tutoring might be a solution. The requirement for this is the school's confirmation that the child needs support studying and that there are no comparable school offers that can help the child. Then you can apply to the Jobcenter.

Tip: Wait for the decision on reimbursement of costs by the Jobcenter before you register your child at a learning institute or with a tutor; this way no disadvantages arise for you.

Note:

The contractual partner of the school tuition provider is always you and not the Jobcenter.



Educational benefits

Personal school supplies – School tuition – Student transport

Participating made possible

Culture, sports, and free time

Is your child a member of a sports club? Or would like to learn an instrument? Many leisure activities cost money and are often too expensive for families on a low income. So that your child can still „participate“, an amount of 15 euros per month or 180 euros per year is available to them until the age of 18.

Even for the youngest children, you can receive benefits for social participation. These include toddler-parent services such as the Prague Parent-Child Programme (PEKiP), baby swimming, baby massage, and fee-based toddler and play groups.

As part of the participation package, you receive a lump sum from the Jobcenter for a paid membership in sports, games, culture, and socialising. This includes, for example, sports clubs, youth groups, and local traditional clubs.

You can be reimbursed for participation in one-off community events. This could be, for example, a trip to a museum with a youth group or the holiday fun event of the table tennis club.



180 euros per year

Supporting your child's hobbies

For regular participation in a hobby, you will receive a monthly lump sum of 15 euros for your child (e.g., membership in a sports club or participation in a painting course).

If your child wants to take part in a holiday activity, you can also receive funding from the Jobcenter for these expenses. This includes, for example, summer courses, theatre workshops, camps, and activities within the framework of the holiday fun of the municipalities. Please note that a maximum of 180 euros per child per year is available for holiday activities and hobbies.

If additional special equipment is required, the costs for this can also be reimbursed (e.g., a pair of football or ballet shoes as well as a judo suit for the sports club, a musical instrument for the music school, a uniform for the marching band or the necessary riding equipment for the riding group).

Numerous activities can be paid for with the Education and Participation Package.

Take advantage of the opportunities and actively help shape your child's leisure time! With 180 euros, you can achieve a lot for your child.



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Further information

Contact

If you receive the unemployment benefit Bürgergeld or social benefits, the Jobcenter is your point of contact. You can find us at:

www.jobcenter-soest.de

If you are not a client of the Jobcenter, you will receive information in your local municipality or city. Kreis Soest also helps with your questions:

www.kreis-soest.de/famile_soiales

General information and brochures in different languages are provided by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:

www.bildungspaket.bmas.de

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