



## Kita Ritterburg

Working in an inclusive kindergarten

OID: E10281636

<https://www.kita-ritterburg.de/>

Post Address: Ritterstrasse 35 10969 Berlin

### **The Project**

Located in the neighborhood of Kreuzberg, which is one of the most vibrant neighborhoods and one that is suffering the most from poverty at the same time, the childcare center Kita Ritterburg opens its doors to 85 young children aged between 1 to 7 years. Operating from Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, this Kita is a nurturing space where children are cared for in two different groups, one for the children in the age range of 1-3 and one for the older children. So there will be the opportunity to either work with smaller children (aged 1-3) or older children (3-7). Working hours may span from 9 AM till 4 PM.

We have two groups and offer 2 ESC volunteering positions in the Kindergarten.

The team of the Kita Ritterburg consists of a very diverse group of 15 educators with different cultural and professional backgrounds, being fluent in 8 different languages at the moment (German, English, Spanish, Dari, Polish, Russian, Turkish, French). German is the main language for communication within the team and with the kids.

It's a place that prides itself on inclusivity, welcoming children and families from diverse backgrounds and supporting those affected by disabilities, illnesses, addiction, and social exclusion. The center's philosophy is built around 'Nestwärme', a German concept emphasizing warmth and security, creating a supportive environment for all.

The Kita's architecture spans two floors, with a large garden and playground that offer the perfect setting for free play and exploration. The curriculum is rich with activities, including music, theater, and different projects, all designed to foster creativity and learning.

An Early Excellence pedagogical approach underpins the center's educational philosophy, focusing on recognizing and nurturing each child's potential through their early years, but not in an elite meaning.

### **Tasks for the volunteer**

Volunteers play a crucial role in the day-to-day life of the Kita, engaging with children as play partners and helping with the Kita's daily maintenance and daily routines. They contribute to a positive and structured environment, assist during mealtimes, and help ensure the cleanliness and orderliness of the space. Volunteers also could accompany children and educators on excursions in the neighborhood or other parts of Berlin.

## European Solidarity Corps (ESC) with ijgd in social and cultural projects in Berlin 2024-2025



Beyond these practical contributions, volunteers are deeply involved in the community aspects of the Kita, participating in celebrations and trips, like the Kitareise (a 5 daytrip with the kids aged 6 and older) or the annual Kita sleepover.

There are also many possibilities in which a volunteer can contribute with their strengths and interests. These could include:

- introducing their country of origin or their own culture to the children: e.g. country/ European projects, games, songs, cooking, etc.
- pictorial design
- rhythmic - musical education
- language/ literature
- experiments
- project work
- trips

These activities not only enrich the children's experiences but also strengthen the bonds within the Kita community, reflecting the cultural diversity of the families and staff.

Volunteering at this childcare center is more than just a way to help; it's an opportunity to be part of a vibrant community and to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Kreuzberg.

For more general information about the project “European Solidarity. ESC with ijgd in social and cultural projects in Berlin” and the application process, please read the Call for Participants 2024-25 or contact us at [esc-applications.berlin@ijgd.de](mailto:esc-applications.berlin@ijgd.de)