



The Minister

North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry for Children, Families,
Refugees and Integration, 40190 Düsseldorf

11/12/2020

To the

parents and families
with children in child day-care facilities in North
Rhine-Westphalia

Child day care until 10 January 2021

Dear parents,

Once again in this eventful year, I am writing a personal letter to you. Unfortunately, the dynamics of the coronavirus pandemic are forcing us again and again to act at short notice. This will be the case again now as well. The situation is very serious. The lockdown light measures in November have slowed down the infections in the last few weeks but have not stopped them. We are now again facing exploding infection rates and an extremely strained situation in the intensive care units. We must act, I must act.

The situation in intensive care requires a drastic reaction. It is foreseeable that we must again go into a far-reaching lockdown. Social life must be curbed and contacts reduced as far as possible. This applies to social, economic and cultural life. Each contact that does not take place helps.

You know that since the first lockdown I have been heavily committed to children's rights. After the experiences in the spring, it is important to me – the most important thing to me – to bring our children safely through this pandemic. No child should be left behind and no child should suffer harm in this crisis. I am

committed to this. For this reason, in late summer I promised not to close the child day-care centres on a state-wide basis again. I remain committed to this. I will not close them again like in the spring.

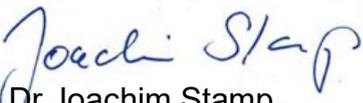
Nevertheless, we need to act now in child day care as well. Therefore, children for whom attendance at a day care facility is essential will receive care services. **However, I appeal to you: please bring your children into care during this time only if it is absolutely necessary.** Make use of all other options for balancing career and childcare and, if at all possible for you, do not bring your child to day care!

At the same time – and I would like to say this very openly, so that you are really aware of this service and make use of it if you need it – if you need help, your children will receive care. In addition to work-related reasons, this could also be a situation where excessive demands are placed on a family. Seek trust-based contact with your day care centre or carer! You and your children will not be left alone in this situation.

I will also again contact the employees of the child day care facilities and the child day carers and thank them. They are at your children's side with indescribable commitment during this time and really are heroes and heroines of this pandemic. Please show the greatest of consideration to the employees at the child day care facilities and the child day carers during this time!

Play your part.

Kind regards


Dr Joachim Stamp