

A Universe for Children

Opening Ceremony: New Daycare Center of KIT at Durlacher Tor with 115 Places



New daycare center: The KinderUniversum (Children's Universe) was officially handed over by the State to KIT. (Photo: Emanuel Jöbstl, KIT)

With its new daycare center, KIT significantly improves the compatibility of job and family. Today, the daycare center KinderUniversum (Children's Universe) was handed over officially to KIT by the state of Baden-Württemberg. In total, 115 children will be taken up. Consequently, KIT will nearly double the number of daycare places offered. The first groups have moved in in September already. The daycare center is operated by the educcare ggmbH, Cologne.

Two daycare groups of ten children each, who are aged up to three years, and a kindergarten group for 20 children aged from three to six moved into the new daycare center in mid-September already. A third daycare group followed in November. According to the plans of the operator, another four groups will follow until May 2014, among them another three daycare groups.

"Compatibility of job and family is a major concern of the Presidential Committee of KIT," said KIT Vice President for Human Resources and Law, Dr. Elke Luise Barnstedt, during the opening ceremony in

Monika Landgraf
Chief Press Officer

Kaiserstraße 12
76131 Karlsruhe, Germany
Phone: +49 721 608-47414
Fax: +49 721 608-43658
E-mail: presse@kit.edu

**For further information,
please contact:**

Dr. Klaus Rümmele
Public Relations and Marketing
(PKM)
Phone: +49 721 608-48153
E-mail: klaus.ruemmele@kit.edu

the presence of representatives of the state and KIT as well as childcare workers, parents, and children. "Opening of the Children's Universe will result in the KIT offering a total of 215 all-day childcare places for its employees, which are funded with EUR 500,000 annually. This is a remarkable amount to help women reconcile their work and family life," Barnstedt said. The head of the Karlsruhe Office for Assets and Construction in Baden-Württemberg (Amt Karlsruhe der Vermögen und Bau Baden-Württemberg), Günter Bachmann, added: "The building combines architectonic aesthetics with a high technical standard and functionality. It remains in the background and wishes to be enlivened and further developed by its users. It asks the children and the childcare workers to take it into possession and to design it and, hence, stimulates creativity and innovation."



Key handover: From left to right: Günter Bachmann and Gisela Redeker-Ellinger (Vermögen und Bau Baden-Württemberg, Karlsruhe Office), Susanne Koch, Head, and Daniela Körner, pedagogical coach of the Children's Universe (educare ggmbH), KIT Vice President Dr. Ulrich Breuer, KIT Vice President Dr. Elke Luise Barnstedt, Mayor Wolfram Jäger. (Photo: Emanuel Jöbstl, KIT)

The pedagogical program of the Children's Universe focuses on natural sciences and engineering. The daycare center participates in the program "Haus der kleinen Forscher" (House of little researchers). Physical exercise and sports as well as bilingualism are considered important. The Children's Universe will be open on working days from 9 to 19 hrs, also during school holidays.

Construction costs totaled about EUR 5 million. The city of Karlsruhe funded about 2 millions, the Federal Republic of Germany contribut-

ed EUR 720,000. Construction started in September 2011. On January 01, 2014, all floors will be ready for occupancy. The Amt Karlsruhe der Vermögen und Bau Baden-Württemberg (Karlsruhe Office for Assets and Construction in Baden-Württemberg) was responsible for the construction, the building was designed by architect Bruno Fioretti Marquez, Berlin.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9000 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24000 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

This press release is available on the internet at www.kit.edu.

The photos of printing quality may be downloaded under www.kit.edu or requested by mail to presse@kit.edu or phone +49 721 608-47414. The photos may be used in the context given above exclusively.