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# Fachenglisch für die Soziale Arbeit

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# 1. Grundbegriffe der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe

Examining English and German *children's services* together is a fascinating undertaking. Indeed, *studies comparing children's services systems* in different countries form an arguably underrepresented area of *children's services research*. By and large though, the reader looking for striking contrasts may be disappointed. At first glance, the *comparison* of the English and German systems certainly reveals more *commonalities* than differences. In both countries, services are largely based on *legislation* reflecting the *children and families policy* of the late 1980s: the English Children Act 1989 and the German *Child and Youth Services Act*. Strengthening *participation* and supporting parents in *raising* their children were key themes in both sets of legislation. Important *amendments* to legislation in both countries were made during the mid-2000s. The focus of these *laws* was improving systems for *protecting* children, which has been a particular *concern* in the last decade.

Children's services are *provided* by a mix of *agencies*. In Germany the *department for children, young people, and families* has a long history as the *authority* that plans, coordinates, and sometimes provides local services. In England, *local authority children's services* play a similar role. Alongside such *statutory agencies*, each country has a range of services for children, young people, and families provided by *non-statutory agencies*.

Children's services are diverse in their *objectives*, form, and *client groups*. *Service users* include babies, *toddlers*, *primary school-aged children*, *adolescents*, and, of course, their parents or other *caregivers*. In a broad sense, children's services encompass everything from *early education* to *youth work*, and overlap with practice fields as diverse as *early intervention* and *youth justice*. Some *services* have an *individual case orientation*, that is, they respond to the *individual needs* of certain families. Other services have a *community orientation*, that is, they seek to address *community need*. Some work may be seen as having a largely *administrative*, *bureaucratic*, or management nature. Other work may be primarily *social pedagogical*, *relationship-oriented*, or *therapeutic*.

Much work with children, young people, and families is *supportive* in nature, helping parents with the *challenges* of *child-raising*, and helping

young people with the difficulties of *growing up*. In both England and Germany, there are specific services for individual families, where *bringing up children* is resulting in difficulties. Such individual services are often described as *family support*. They are *preventative* and *low threshold* in nature. However, some work has a more controlling function, and a more *reactive* nature. The area of *child protection* is an example of such practice. Here, the *threshold* for interventions is usually higher. In both England and Germany, *protection* is based on concerns in one of two areas: *neglect* or *abuse*. Abuse is often separated into three subcategories: *physical abuse*, *emotional abuse*, and *sexual abuse*. In England, in the early 2000s, the term *protection* was replaced by the idea of *safeguarding*. This concept was more broadly defined than simply *keeping children safe* and protecting them from *harm*. It included aspects such as being healthy and enjoying *education* or *leisure pursuits*.

German native speakers should note that children's services are never known as *youth services*, youth welfare services, or child and youth services in English. Using these phrases may therefore confuse English native speakers. However, the phrase *services for children, young people, and families* is commonly used.

**children's services** ≈ Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, Jugendhilfe  
**study** Studie, Untersuchung  
**compare** vergleichen  
**children's services system** ≈ Kinder- und Jugendhilfesystem  
**children's services research** ≈ Jugendhilfeforschung, Kinder- und Jugendhilfeforschung  
**comparison** Vergleich  
**commonality** Gemeinsamkeit  
**legislation** Gesetzgebung  
**children and families policy** ≈ Kinder-, Jugend- und Familienpolitik  
**Child and Youth Services Act** Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz  
**participation** Partizipation, Beteiligung, Teilnahme, Teilhabe  
**raise** erziehen  
**amendment** Änderung, Novellierung  
**law** Gesetz  
**protect** schützen  
**concern** Sorge  
**provide** erbringen, anbieten, bereit stellen  
**agency** Träger  
**department for children, young people and families** ≈ Jugendamt, Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, Amt für

Kinder, Jugend und Familien, Fachbereich Kinder, Jugend und Familie  
**authority** Behörde  
**local authority children's services** ≈ Jugendamt, Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, Amt für Kinder, Jugend und Familien, Fachbereich Kinder, Jugend und Familie  
**statutory agency** öffentlicher Träger, staatlicher Träger  
**non-statutory agency** freier Träger, nichtstaatlicher Träger, nichtöffentlicher Träger  
**objective** Ziel, Zielsetzung, Zielrichtung  
**client group** Klientengruppe  
**service user** NutzerIn, KlientIn, AdressatIn  
**toddler** Kleinkind  
**primary school-aged child** Kind im Grundschulalter  
**adolescent** ≈ Jugendliche/r  
**caregiver** ≈ Erziehungsperson  
**early education** frühe Bildung  
**youth work** Jugendarbeit, Jugendarbeit, Jugendsozialarbeit und erzieherischer Kinder- und Jugendschutz, Kinder- und Jugendarbeit  
**early intervention** Frühe Hilfe  
**youth justice** ≈ Jugendstrafrecht

**service** Dienst, Dienstleistung, Hilfe,  
Angebot

**individual case orientation**

Einzelfallorientierung

**individual need** Einzelbedarf

**community orientation** ≈

Gemeinwesenorientierung,

Sozialraumorientierung, Feldorientierung

**community need** ≈ Bedarf im

Gemeinwesen

**administrative** administrativ, verwaltend,  
verwaltungstechnisch

**bureaucratic** bürokratisch

**social pedagogical** sozialpädagogisch

**relationship-oriented** beziehungsorientiert

**therapeutic** therapeutisch

**supportive** unterstützend, stützend,  
supportiv

**challenge** Herausforderung

**child-raising** Kindererziehung

**grow up** aufwachsen, erwachsen werden

**bring up children** Kinder erziehen

**family support** erzieherische Hilfe(n)

**preventative** präventiv

**low threshold** niedrigschwellig,  
niederschwellig

**reactive** reaktiv

**child protection** Kinderschutz

**threshold** Schwelle

**protection** Schutz

**neglect** Vernachlässigung, Verwahrlosung

**abuse** ≈ Misshandlung, Missbrauch

**physical abuse** körperliche Misshandlung

**emotional abuse** psychische

Misshandlung

**sexual abuse** sexueller Missbrauch,  
Missbrauch

**safeguarding** ≈ Schutz

**keep a child safe** ein Kind vor Gefahren  
bewahren, ein Kind schützen

**harm** Schädigung

**education** Bildung

**leisure pursuit** Freizeitbeschäftigung

**youth services** ≈ Jugendarbeit,

Jugendsozialarbeit und erzieherischer

Kinder- und Jugendschutz

**services for children, young people**

**and families** ≈ Kinder und Jugendhilfe,  
Jugendhilfe

## 2. Kindheit

*Childhood* is the phase in the *life course* that comes before *youth* and *adulthood*. It is often subdivided into various stages. *Early childhood* is the first period, which some authors consider to start at birth, others after *babyhood* (or *infancy*) and *toddlerhood*. *Mid-childhood* (or *early primary school-age*), *late childhood*, and *adolescence* follow. We may thus differentiate between babies (or *infants*), *toddlers*, *young children*, and *pre-pubescent children*. The field of study concerned with childhood is known as *childhood studies* or *childhood research*.

Being a child is sometimes considered a *natural biological given*. However, both childhood and the state of being a child are *social constructions*. Children have traditionally been seen as *innocent*, *naive*, *unspoilt*, and *pure*. Some *images of children* stress their *weakness*, *vulnerability*, *helplessness*, *passivity*, and *dependency*. There has, therefore, long been a view that children should be *protected*, so that their *welfare* can be secured. However, *images of childhood* and *representations of childhood* are by no means universal. *Understandings of childhood* are *historically relative* and *culturally relative*. The twentieth century is sometimes referred to as the *century of the child*. Modern Western *child policy* reflects ideas found in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*: children as active and *autonomous social actors* with *competence* and *agency*. *Children's voices* are to be heard and they have *participatory rights*.

Many authors discuss the *basic needs of children*. Meeting these needs may be seen as *preconditions* for healthy *child development*. *Maslow's hierarchy of needs* is a famous example of such a framework, and some authors have also considered child-specific basic needs. The most fundamental of these is arguably a good *attachment* to the parents and a *nurturing parent-child relationship*. This gives *warmth*, love, a feeling of *security*, and a sense of *basic trust*. Time and attention from parents, *physical integrity*, *developmentally appropriate experiences*, *clear boundaries*, and being treated as an individual are other commonly cited needs. Parents vary in their approaches to *child-raising*. One established classification of *parenting styles* distinguishes styles as *authoritative*, *authoritarian*, and *permissive*.

*Developmental psychology*, *educational science*, and *neuroscience* have given us an understanding of children's *emotional development*, *social*

*development, motor development, and cognitive development. A child is no longer seen as a tabula rasa or blank slate to be shaped by child raisers as they wish. Instead, children are genetically pre-programmed, and their maturation involves passing developmental milestones in developmental stages. Learning research and learning theories examine and model how children learn. Early childhood learning is learning through interaction with others and learning through play: play in the open air, play with friends, play with adults, children's games, practice games, pretend play (sometimes called symbolic play), and games with rules. Play is imagination, fantasy, creativity, and an exploration of the child's social world.*

**childhood** Kindheit, Kindesalter  
**life course** Lebenslauf  
**youth** Jugend, Jugendalter, Jugendzeit  
**adulthood** Erwachsenenalter  
**early childhood** frühe Kindheit  
**babyhood** Säuglingsalter  
**infancy** Säuglingsalter  
**toddlerhood** Kleinkindalter  
**mid-childhood** mittlere Kindheit  
**primary school-age** Grundschulalter  
**late childhood** späte Kindheit  
**adolescence** Adoleszenz  
**infant** ≈ Säugling  
**toddler** Kleinkind  
**young child** junges Kind  
**pre-pubescent child** vorpubertäres Kind  
**childhood studies** ≈ Kindheitsforschung, Kinderforschung  
**childhood research** ≈ Kindheitsforschung, Kinderforschung  
**natural biological given** biologische Naturtatsache  
**social construction** soziale Konstruktion, soziales Konstrukt  
**innocent** unschuldig  
**naive** naiv  
**unspoilt** unverdorben  
**pure** rein  
**image of children** Kindesbild, Kinderbild  
**weakness** Schwäche  
**vulnerability** ≈ Verwundbarkeit, Vulnerabilität, Schutzbedürftigkeit  
**helplessness** Hilfslosigkeit  
**passivity** Passivität  
**dependency** Abhängigkeit  
**protect** schützen  
**welfare** Wohl  
**image of childhood** Kindheitsbild

**representation of childhood** Repräsentation von Kindheit, Kindheitsbild  
**understanding of childhood** ≈ Kindheitsverständnis  
**historically relative** historisch relativ  
**culturally relative** kulturell relativ  
**century of the child** Jahrhundert des Kindes  
**child policy** Kinderpolitik  
**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** Übereinkommen über die Rechte des Kindes, UN-Kinderrechtskonvention  
**autonomous** autonom, selbstständig  
**social actor** sozialer Akteur  
**competence** Kompetenz  
**agency** Agency  
**child's voice** Stimme des Kindes  
**participatory right** Teilnahmerecht, Beteiligungsrecht, Partizipationsrecht  
**child's basic need** kindliches Grundbedürfnis  
**precondition** Voraussetzung  
**child development** Kindesentwicklung  
**Maslow's hierarchy of needs** Maslows Bedürfnishierarchie, Maslowsche Bedürfnishierarchie, Bedürfnishierarchie von Maslow  
**attachment** Bindung  
**nurturing** fördernd  
**parent-child relationship** Eltern-Kind-Beziehung, Eltern-Kind-Verhältnis  
**warmth** Wärme  
**security** Geborgenheit  
**basic trust** Urvertrauen  
**physical integrity** körperliche Unversehrtheit  
**developmentally appropriate experience** entwicklungsgerechte Erfahrung

**clear boundaries** klare Grenzen

**child-raising** Kindererziehung

**parenting style** Erziehungsstil

**authoritative** autoritativ, sozialintegrativ

**authoritarian** autoritär

**permissive** permissiv

**developmental psychology**

Entwicklungspsychologie

**educational science**

Erziehungswissenschaft

**neuroscience** Neurowissenschaft

**emotional development** emotionale

Entwicklung

**social development** soziale Entwicklung

**motor development** motorische

Entwicklung

**cognitive development** kognitive

Entwicklung

**blank slate** unbeschriebenes Blatt

**child-raiser** ≈ Erziehungsperson

**genetically pre-programmed** genetisch

vorprogrammiert

**maturation** Reifung

**developmental milestone** Meilenstein

der Entwicklung

**developmental stage** Entwicklungsstufe

**learning research** Lernforschung

**learning theory** Lerntheorie

**early childhood learning** frühkindliches

Lernen

**learning through play** Lernen im Spiel

**play in the open air** Spielen im Freien

**children's game** Kinderspiel

**practice game** Übungsspiel

**pretend play** so-tun-als-ob-Spiel

**symbolic play** Symbolspiel

**game with rules** Regelspiel

**imagination** Imagination,

Vorstellungsvermögen, Vorstellungskraft

**exploration** Erkundung, Exploration,

Erforschung

**child's social world** soziale Welt des

Kindes

### 3. Jugend

*Youth* is a *phase* in the *human life course* in which one's *identity* takes shape, one's *personality* develops, one's *self-concept* and *self-image* alter, and *life attitudes* and *value orientations* crystallise. The *stage* of youth comes between *childhood* and *adulthood*. Occasionally, youth, the *teenage years*, and *adolescence* are considered synonymous terms. However, in the English language, youth is normally considered a longer period than adolescence, with a later onset, perhaps at around the age of 15 or so. Nonetheless, the precise beginning and end of youth and adolescence may be hard to pin down. These age boundaries are also changing. German language authors often discuss the *early arrival of the phase of youth*, the *protraction of youth*, and the so-called *destructuring of youth*. It should be noted that the English terms youth and adolescence are used in different *disciplinary contexts*. Adolescence is a term primarily used in medical or psychology *papers*, youth a term more common in sociology and social work literature. One can talk of *youth research*, *youth studies*, and the *sociology of youth*.

People who find themselves in the earlier part of youth are referred to as *young people*. If a little older they may also be described as *young adults*. The male and female forms are *young women* and *young men*. The terms boy and girl are normally only used for younger children. In Britain, the plural expression *youths* is used to describe a group of young people, but the expression is not neutral. Talk of youths carries strong negative connotations: of *disengaged* young men, of *criminal behaviour*, and the like. In English, expressions such as *teenie*, *teenager*, *kid*, and *youngster* are very informal indeed and are usually avoided in *academic contexts*. For those wishing to describe a particular life stage more accurately, age groups such as *prepuberty*, *preadolescence*, *early adolescence*, *mid-adolescence*, *late adolescence*, *post adolescence*, and *early adulthood* may be more helpful. Young people are generally referred to as children in British law until they reach the age of 18, although the *age of criminal responsibility* in Britain is 10 years.

Youth may be described as a *life stage* characterised by *transitions*. The *transition from childhood to youth* is accompanied by biological change: *sexual maturity*, *growth spurts*, *hormonal change*, and *mood swings*. However, *growing up* is more than reaching *biological maturity*. Adolescence is a transition from *dependence* to *independence*. *Entering employment*, for



instance, allows increasing autonomy from one's parents, and may be a first step in *breaking away from the parental home*. Indeed, in terms of *role models* and *socialisation*, adolescence is characterised by young people *turning towards peers* at the expense of the *parent-child relationship*. This re-orientation is accompanied by *boundary testing*, a *willingness to take risks*, and *rites of passage*. In this time of *storm and stress*, *psychosocial development* is sometimes understood with reference to the concept of the *psychosocial moratorium*.

Some approaches to examining *youth behaviour* and *youth identity* focus on culture. Here youth is spoken of as an *age generation*, such as today's *pragmatic generation* in Germany. Such perspectives see youth in terms of *youth cultures* and *youth subcultures*, located in a particular historical period. Members of an *age cohort* may well share values, *worldviews*, styles, and lifestyles. They may be involved in particular *social movements*. Such ideas of youth culture can lead to a model of *generational conflict* or even *generational war*, as youth cultures become *counter-cultures*.

**youth** Jugend, Jugendalter, Jugendzeit  
**phase** Phase  
**human life course** menschlicher Lebenslauf  
**identity** Identität  
**self-concept** Selbstkonzept  
**self-image** Selbstbild  
**life attitude** Lebenseinstellung  
**value orientation** Werteorientierung  
**stage** Phase, Stadium, Stufe  
**childhood** Kindheit  
**adulthood** Erwachsenenalter  
**teenage years** Teenageralter  
**adolescence** Adoleszenz  
**early arrival of the phase of youth** Verfrühung der Jugendphase  
**protraction of youth** Verlängerung der Jugend  
**destructuring of youth** Entstrukturierung der Jugend, Strukturwandel der Jugendphase  
**disciplinary context** disziplinärer Zusammenhang  
**paper** Aufsatz, Artikel, Buchbeitrag  
**youth research** ≈ Jugendforschung  
**youth studies** ≈ Jugendforschung  
**sociology of youth** Jugendsoziologie  
**young person** Jugendliche/r, jüngere/r Jugendliche/r  
**young adult** junger Mensch, junge/r Volljährige/r, junge/r Erwachsene/r, Jugendliche/r, Heranwachsende/r

**young woman** Mädchen, junge Frau  
**young man** Junge, junger Mann  
**youths** ≈ Problemjugendliche, Jugendliche  
**disengaged** entfremdet, randständig  
**criminal behaviour** kriminelles Verhalten  
**academic context** wissenschaftlicher Zusammenhang  
**prepuberty** Vorpubertät  
**preadolescence** Präadoleszenz  
**early adolescence** frühe Adoleszenz  
**mid-adolescence** mittlere Adoleszenz  
**late adolescence** späte Adoleszenz  
**post adolescence** Postadoleszenz  
**early adulthood** frühes Erwachsenenalter, angehenendes Erwachsenenalter  
**age of criminal responsibility** Strafmündigkeitsalter  
**life stage** Lebensphase  
**transition** Übergang, Transition  
**transition from childhood to youth** Übergang von der Kindheit in die Jugend  
**sexual maturity** Geschlechtsreife, Sexualreife  
**growth spurt** Wachstumsschub  
**hormonal change** hormonelle Veränderung  
**mood swing** Stimmungsschwankung  
**growing up** Erwachsenwerden  
**biological maturity** biologische Reife  
**dependence** Abhängigkeit, Unselbstständigkeit  
**independence** Eigenständigkeit, Selbstständigkeit

**entering employment** ins Erwerbsleben eintreten

**breaking away from the parental home**

Ablösung vom Elternhaus, Trennung vom Elternhaus

**role model** Vorbild

**socialisation** Sozialisation

**turning towards peers** Hinwendung zu den Peers

**parent-child relationship** Eltern-Kind-Beziehung, Eltern-Kind-Verhältnis

**boundary testing** Testen der Grenzen, Grenztesten

**willingness to take risks** Risikofreude

**rite of passage** Übergangsritus

**storm and stress** Sturm und Drang

**psychosocial development** psychosoziale Entwicklung

**psychosocial moratorium** psychosoziales Moratorium

**youth behaviour** Jugendverhalten

**youth identity** Jugendidentität

**age generation** Altersgeneration

**pragmatic generation** pragmatische Generation

**youth culture** Jugendkultur

**youth subculture** Jugendsubkultur, Jugendteilkultur

**age cohort** Alterskohorte

**worldview** Weltbild, Weltanschauung

**social movement** soziale Bewegung

**generational conflict** Generationenkonflikt

**generational war** Kampf der Generationen

**counter-culture** Gegenkultur

## 4. Öffentliche Träger der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe

In England and Germany, *children's services* are provided by a network of *agencies*. These agencies belong to the *statutory sector*, *voluntary sector*, and *private sector*. In both countries, *legislation* places certain key *powers* and *duties* relating to children's services with certain *statutory bodies*. In English law, these particular *bodies* are formally known as *children's services authorities*. In both England and Germany, the bodies in question function at the *local authority level*. Statutory children's services are anchored in *local government*. This may actually involve various *tiers* of government: *parishes*, *districts*, certain *towns* or *cities* (in Germany, those so-called '*district-free*' ones), or even, for larger cities, individual *boroughs*. *Local authorities* are *public bodies* which *set up* and run other *authorities*. These authorities have two roles. Firstly, they have *overall responsibility* in coordinating the *provision* of children's services. Secondly, they directly provide some services.

The German authority for children, young people, and families is the *Jugendamt*. 'Jugendamt' is a somewhat difficult term to translate. The reference to youth is highly idiomatic: illogical in the context of services which are primarily oriented on *childhood* and *parenthood*. The common translation found in dictionaries is *youth welfare office*. However, English native speakers will probably not understand this term as describing a department for children, young people, and families. German native speakers will be better understood if they use a term such as *department for children, young people, and families*, which also corresponds neatly to modern German terminology. Germany has a similar agency at the *Bundesland-level*, namely the *state children's department*. It goes without saying that this agency has no British equivalent.

The German institution of the *Jugendamt* dates back to the early twentieth century. The authority responsible for similar tasks in England has experienced less historical continuity. English children's services have seen waves of *organisational change* over the decades. Post-World War II Britain had *children's departments*. In the early 1970s, these were replaced by *generic Social Services Departments* (often known as *SSDs*, or simply *social services* for short). These *departments* also offered adults' services, and therefore have no German equivalent. Such *Social Services Departments* no longer