



Fondation Accueil  
Petite Enfance  
EPFL-UNIL

## How to manage early-stage childhood in Switzerland and at EPFL

# School and child care

- **Childcare** : from 4 month to 4 years old;
- **School** : starts at age of 4 on July 31, current year;
- School lasts 11 years (compulsory)



# Child Care

(« garderies, crèches »)

- From 4 months to 4 years old;
- In a **childcare centre**  
= *collective* childcare (accueil collectif)
- With a **daycare mother**  
= *family* childcare (accueil familial)



# Childcare Centres

Childcare centre can be « communal », linked to a company or private

- «**Communal**»: depends of the local authorities and are reserved for local residents
- **Linked to a company** : depends of a company and are reserved for the company staff
- **Private** : open to all families. Parents pay the full cost of the service.



# Registration

- For both local childcare centre and daycare mother : **go through your local authority.**

- Day care is organised into networks.

To find the network to which you belong:



- For private childcare centre: **contact the childcare centre**



# When working or studying at EPFL

## Register

- with your **local childcare network** (i.e. where you live)

AND

- with the **EPFL childcare centres**, through the [Lausanne network \(BIP\)](#)



💡 A calculator on this site allows you to simulate the cost of childcare.



# EPFL childcare centres

There are **4 childcare centres** on the EPFL and UNIL site.

They are open to EPFL and UNIL staff and students.

- **La Croquignole** (EPFL - towards the STCC)
- **Le Polychinelle** (EPFL - Bâtiment GA)
- **La Croq'cinelle** (UNIL - Bâtiment Anthropole)
- **La Primavera** (UNIL - Bâtiment Vortex)

**You cannot choose where to go**



# Allocation procedure at EPFL childcare centres

Once you registered on the Lausanne childcare network :

1. The BIP updates the **centralized waiting list (LAC)**. Parents are assigned a LAC number;
2. Managers of the childcare centres consult the LAC and select a family;
3. Managers contact the parents to offer them a place;
4. Managers confirm to the parents the allocation of the place and establish the contract.

[For more information](#) →





# School

- Starts : age of 4 on July 31, current year;
- Lasts 11 years (compulsory school)
- It is divided into two levels: **primary** and **secondary I**.
- Primary level lasts 8 years. It is divided into two 4-year cycles, known as cycle 1 and cycle 2.
- Secondary I level lasts 3 years and leads to a certificate of studies.
- **Public education is free**, but you can also choose a private school (non exhaustive list <https://avdep.ch/ecoles/>)

[Translated documents concerning school](#) →



# From childcare centers to school

- There is no choice of school, your child will attend the school [near your home](#)
- Parents have to register their child during the school year prior to starting school.
- Outside school hours, UAPE or APEMS can take care of the children.
- Parents have to find outside school care through your [local network](#)

Tip: When choosing where to live, consider the childcare options available.



# Holiday activities

- Some UAPE or APEMS organize “Centre aéré”
- Camps organized by EPFL and UNIL <https://www.epfl.ch/campus/community/family-and-work-life/holiday-activities/holiday-activities-for-the-kids-of-epfl-unil-employees/>
- Scientific and technical camps organized by the Science Outreach Department of EPFL <https://www.epfl.ch/education/education-and-science-outreach/fr/jeunepublic/camps-scientifiques-et-techniques/>
- Large offer for camps (e.g. sport camps, WWF, etc), but expensive (some offers are listed on <https://www.epfl.ch/campus/community/family-and-work-life/holiday-activities/> and <https://www.vaudfamille.ch/N4279/vacances-enfants.html?M=6092>)

# Pregnancy @ EPFL

## *Announcement*

No obligation to announce a pregnancy (during a job interview, possibility to not tell the truth).

Announcing a pregnancy might be important for health protection reasons (DSPS), and for planning a replacement during maternity leave.

## *Protection*

By law, a pregnant women may not carry out dangerous or arduous tasks, unless a risk assessment has determined that there is no threat to both the health of the mother and the child, or that adequate protection measures have been taken (to be done with DSPS).

<https://www.epfl.ch/campus/community/family-and-work-life/pregnancy-maternity-paternity-breastfeeding/>

# Maternity @ EPFL

## *Parental leave*

Mother 4 months, partner 20 days

Illness of child or important medical or school events: 5 days par calendar year.

## *Breastfeeding*

Counts as working hours during first year of child. Equipped rooms are available.

<https://www.epfl.ch/campus/community/family-and-work-life/pregnancy-maternity-paternity-breastfeeding/>

## *Flexibility for parents*

See <https://www.epfl.ch/campus/community/family-and-work-life/flexibility-for-parents/>

# Further links

- **FAPE**

<https://www.fape-hel.ch/en/>

- **Pre-school or after-school child care**

<https://www.vaudfamille.ch/N189048/4.-reseaux-d-accueil-de-jour-dans-le-canton-de-vaud.html>

- **BIP, Registration**

<https://www.lausanne.ch/prestations/petite-enfance/cve-inscription.html>

- **Find the school**

<https://www.vd.ch/toutes-les-autorites/departements/departement-de-lenseignement-et-de-la-formation-professionnelle-def/direction-generale-de-lenseignement-obligatoire-et-de-la-pedagogie-specialisee-dgeo/les-etablisements-scolaires>

- **Documents concerning school translated**

[Parent information and translated documents - Documents traduits d'information aux parents | État de Vaud \(vd.ch\)](#)

- **General information, Canton Vaud**

<https://www.vaudfamille.ch/>

- **General information, University of Geneva**

<https://www.unige.ch/rectorat/egalite/thematiques/familles/>; interesting guide: <https://www.unige.ch/parentalite/en/home?data=360>