Dear Employees,

We are almost half way through 2021. There are signs that the pandemic is increasingly weakening and we have plenty of reasons to hope for more normality and freedom in our daily lives soon.

This makes it a good moment to reflect with you for a bit, while also turning our gaze toward the future. As a step in this direction, we have organized a half-day online workshop for employees with children. In addition, this latest edition contains news about school break childcare in summer and on monetary aids.

There is also information about the continuation of an important strategic instrument: the Family-Friendly University Audit. The program has been reshaped to concentrate on three core topics. It will run for three years, and details will be available soon on our website.

Sincerely yours,

The Office of Family Services!

1. Family-Friendly University Audit: New Action Program
2. Online Workshop for Employees with Children
3. School Break Childcare at the University of Bonn
4. Parental Benefits for Men
5. Refund of Kita Fees
1. FAMILY-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY AUDIT – New Action Program

Employees, students, staff representatives, the rector, vice-rectors and managers at the University came together for five rounds of lively dialog. Together they generated an important list of suggestions for shaping and improving conditions, which will flow into the new action program. Its goals for the coming three years:

- Optimizing working and study conditions
- Academic skills development and family
- Better cooperation between various thematic areas

Questions and comments on the audit can be submitted to the Office of Family Services.

2. ONLINE WORKSHOP FOR EMPLOYEES WITH CHILDREN

The Office of Family Services is offering a half-day online workshop for employees with children, exploring how to use the experiences of recent months to formulate concrete action steps.

Up to 12 persons can take part. This workshop is free for employees.

Please find further information on our website. Participants can register by email.
3. SCHOOL BREAK CHILDCARE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BONN

In summer and fall 2021, the Office of Family Services will offer school break childcare at the University Sports campus (Nachtigallenweg location) for members of the University. **Parents who have already pre-registered with the Office of Family Services will soon be receiving a registration link.** All other interested parents can submit a childcare request via email.

Care will be provided for up to 15 children per week. Costs are €60 per child/week. Further siblings pay €30. Warm lunch will be served where possible.

To receive more information, please send an email to: ferienbetreuung@uni-bonn.de

4. PARENTAL BENEFITS FOR MEN

Parental benefits have long been available to men, but in recent years an increasing number of men are actually applying for them. Based on the latest reports from the Federal Statistics Office, almost 25% of fathers applied for parental benefits in 2020, including the associated use of parental leave. In 2015, that number stood at just around 21%.

The data shows significant regional differences. Saxony leads the pack at 30%, while in the Saarland only 19% chose to use the option.

Source: Federal Statistics Office

5. REFUND OF KITA FEES

The City of Bonn and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) have ordered that parents whose children were enrolled in state-sponsored daycare centers, kindergartens or open half-day schools are to be completely exempted from regular fees for the **months of May and June 2021**.

It was initially planned that only half of the fees for parents would be deducted by the city. With the federal state now lending its support, a full exemption can be offered.

Further details are available on the [City of Bonn homepage](http://www.cityofbonn.de).

Also of interest: The federal government has decided that there is a legal claim to full-day care for primary school children! Starting in 2026, full-day care will be provided to all children starting with the first grade. Please click [here](http://www.bundesregierung.de) for more information about this decision.

We assume no responsibility for the correctness and completeness of the information provided!

Last amended: May 20, 2021