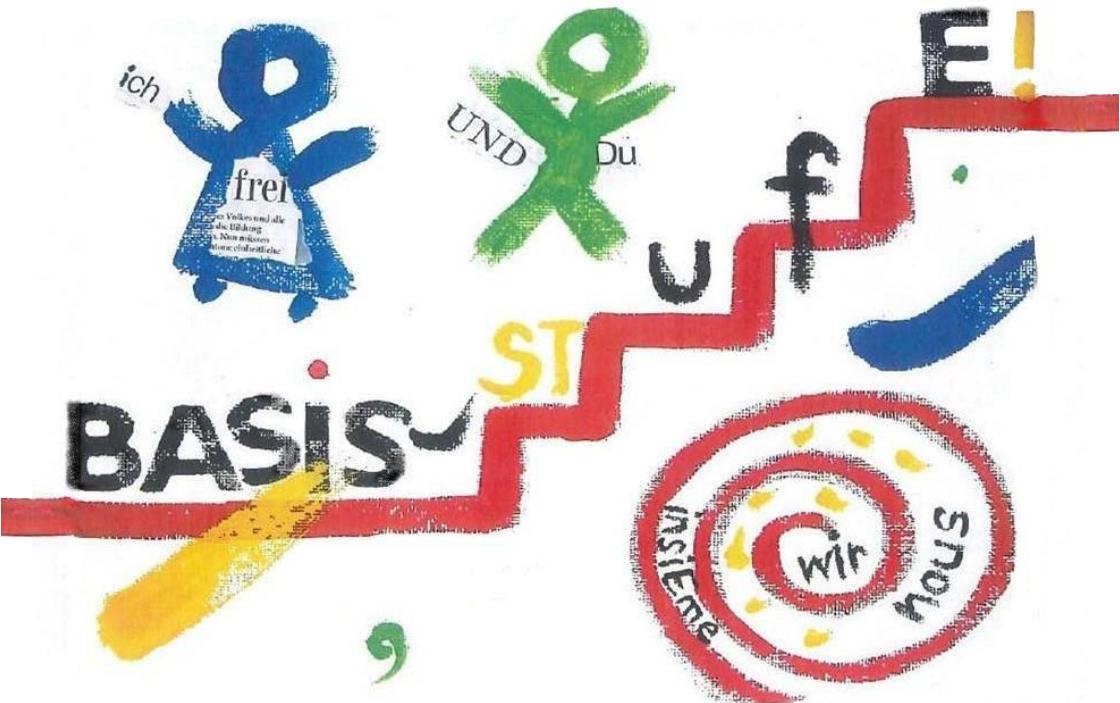




# Information for parents about the Basisstufe Elterninformationen Englisch

Bildungs- und Kulturdirektion



# Basisstufe



## In a nutshell

Das Wichtigste in Kürze

In the Canton of Bern, children attend kindergarten for two years before moving up to the first year at the primary school level. The "Basisstufe" model combines the two years of kindergarten with the first and second year of primary school. This means, that children between the ages of four and eight are taught together in the same class for their first four years in public school.

The teaching is oriented towards the children's stage of development and learning ability (and not towards their age). Teaching takes place in flexible learning groups of mixed ages. There is a fluent transition from learning by playing to task-oriented learning.

As a general rule, children complete the Basisstufe in four years. Once they achieve the learning targets they move up to the third year of primary school. Depending on the child's individual preconditions and path of learning, the child may attend the Basisstufe for three to five years.

A school class in the Basisstufe includes 18 to 24 children and two teachers, who teach individual and usually together.

## Our understanding of development and education

Entwicklungs- und Bildungsverständnis

Children develop in different ways and at different rates. They take their first steps and speak their first words at very different ages. The situation is very similar when it comes to other faculties and skills. The Basisstufe takes special consideration of each child's level of development by adapting the teaching methods and subjects, as well as the games to the individual needs.

## **Mixed age learning groups**

Altersgemischte Lerngruppen

Children between the ages of four and eight are taught together in the Basisstufe. Since the classes include children of different levels and skills, the teaching is not oriented towards their age but rather their development, needs and learning abilities. The mixed age learning groups offer a valuable learning environment for responsible interaction with other children. The children are able to learn from each other and therefore expand their own knowledge and abilities.

## **Playing and learning**

Spielen und Lernen

There is a fluent transition from playing to task-oriented learning in the Basisstufe: learning by playing is gradually replaced by playful learning. In this way the children are supported and encouraged emotionally, socially and in areas of educational achievement according to their level of development.

## **Reading, writing and arithmetic**

Lesen, Schreiben, Rechnen

Neither the children's age nor their transfer to the primary level are the decisive factor as to when to introduce them to reading, writing and arithmetic, but rather their level of development. The flexibility granted by the Basisstufe means that children start to read, write and calculate when they are ready. The children's curiosity and joy of learning should not be limited but encouraged. The same principle applies for the other subjects including "Natur, Mensch, Gesellschaft (NMG)"§ (nature, people, society), crafts, music and sports.

## **Goals and content of the teaching**

Ziele und Inhalte des Unterrichts

Teaching in the Basisstufe is based on the Lehrplan 21. The Lehrplan serves teachers as a compass that helps them plan their lessons from kindergarten through year 9 of school.

## **Teachers**

Lehrpersonen

The Basisstufen team is qualified to teach the kindergarten and primary school levels. The teachers usually work as a team, when they teach the same class at the same time. They plan and assess their lessons based on the learning targets and the content and form of the lessons. They bear joint responsibility and allocate their roles clearly. The teachers promote the children by applying different forms of playing, learning and teaching and by providing a wide range of games and teaching materials. Children who require special assistance in certain fields, such as linguistic or motor skills are helped by additional specialists.

## **Organisation of schooling 4 to 8-year old children**

Organisationsformen der Schuleingangsphase

Kindergarten is a compulsory part of the public school and lasts two years.

Municipalities can provide different models for these first four years: kindergarten, Basisstufe classes or the Cycle élémentaire.

## **Further information on the compulsory school**

Weitere Informationen zur Volksschule

[www.be.ch/volksschule](http://www.be.ch/volksschule)

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