

# THE EARLIER, THE BETTER

Services for children with/at  
risk of disability before they  
start school





## Tailored and comprehensive: Support options for your child

Children with/at risk of disability should be supported individually, which is why a variety of integration support services are available up until school enrolment.

Special education services play a key role and include all measures that help children to thrive and develop their personalities.

These services can be provided, for example, at nurseries, in in-home day care or at early intervention centres. They can also be combined with medical therapy services at interdisciplinary early intervention centres.

As of 2020, Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR) alone will be responsible for the special education services provided at these institutions for the first time. The Federal Participation Act (BTHG) regulates this change to integration support.

**The aim:** Children with disabilities and their parents should be able to take part in all aspects of social life as they see fit – regardless of where they live and the form of support they require.

But which services and offers are available to your child and how exactly do you apply for integration support?  
You can find initial answers here in this brochure.

Our information centres near you are available to answer any other questions you may have and assist you with the application process.

We look forward to hearing from you!

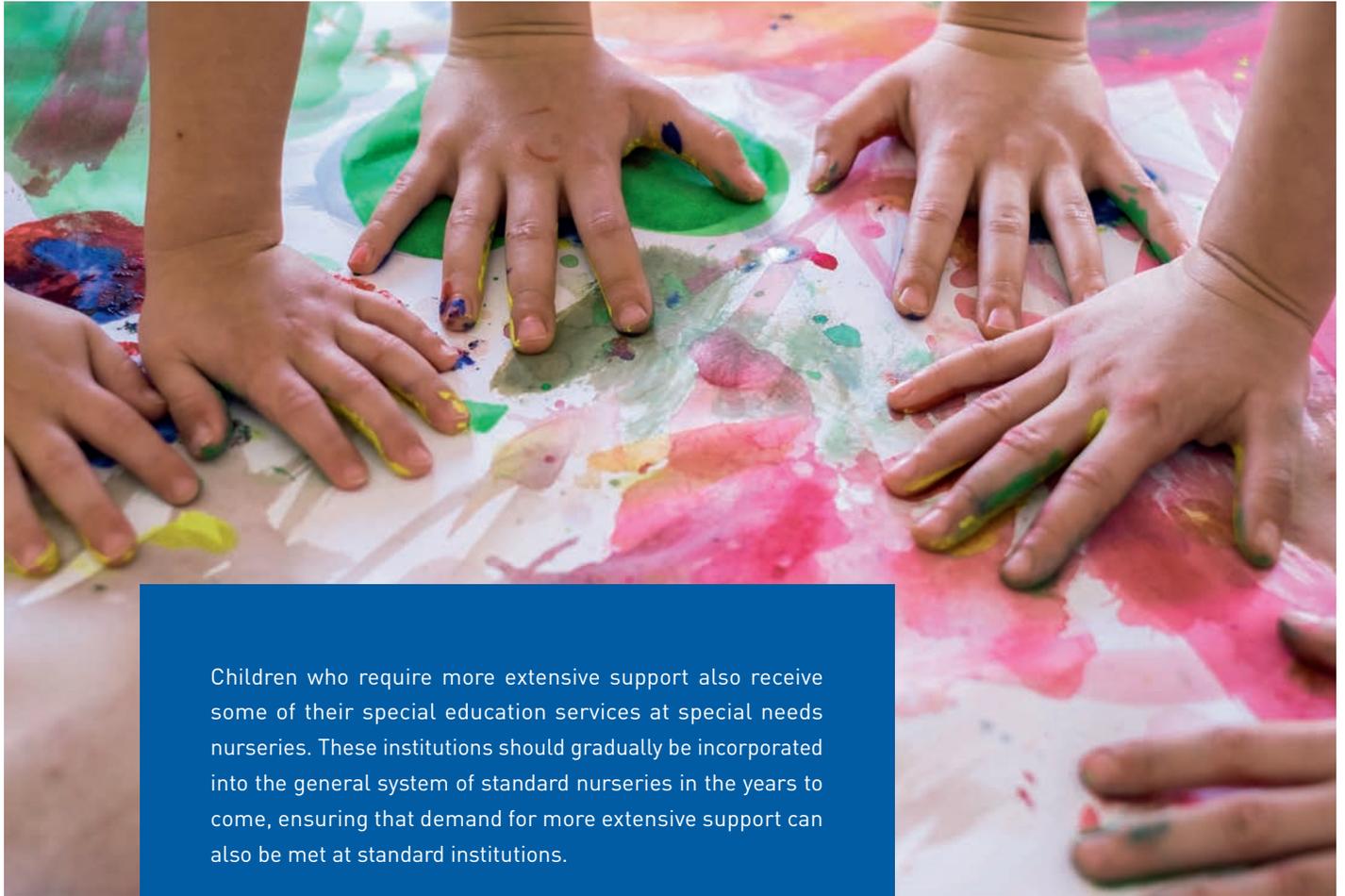
# Special education services provided at institutions

## What are special education services?

Special education services promote social inclusion and are designed to increase the independence of children with/at risk of disability and nurture their social abilities and development. A variety of measures support children in their learning development, in their social behaviour and in their emotional experiences. These include any necessary non-medical therapeutic, psychological, special education and psychosocial services as well as advice for their legal guardians.

## Where are special education services provided?

- In combination with educational services and, if required, services dedicated to medical rehabilitation at nurseries.
  - In combination with educational services provided through in-home day care.
- As one-to-one special education services provided in the form of early intervention (e.g. at early intervention centres). This includes diagnosis, development support with a focus on special educational needs, and advice for parents.
  - In combination with medical therapy services as 'complex early intervention services'. Provided by a variety of occupational groups in collaboration, this particularly extensive form of support examines the child and their family as a whole and includes diagnosis, a support and treatment plan, and its interdisciplinary implementation. The costs for 'complex early intervention services' are divided among LVR and health insurance companies, depending on the focus of treatment.



Children who require more extensive support also receive some of their special education services at special needs nurseries. These institutions should gradually be incorporated into the general system of standard nurseries in the years to come, ensuring that demand for more extensive support can also be met at standard institutions.

# LVR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BEFORE THEY START SCHOOL



**IN COMBINATION WITH MEDICAL SERVICES**  
(`complex early intervention services`)

**Outpatient or inpatient  
at certified institutions**

**Health insurance companies**



\* For example, at interdisciplinary early intervention centres.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES



AS SEPARATE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

**One-to-one services** (outpatient or inpatient) **provided by relevant institutions\*\***

**In in-home day care**

**At standard nurseries**

**At special needs nurseries**

\*\* For example, at early intervention centres.



## Uninterrupted services and seamless transition

The BTHG is overhauling integration support, which represents a milestone on the path to enabling people with disabilities to take part in social life as they see fit. As LVR introduces this new system, it will make the transition as seamless as possible for all those involved. This applies in particular to children who are eligible for services as well as their parents.

A variety of transition rules are thus being put into place, including first and foremost LVR support in early childhood education, which so far has been voluntary: the Flnk initiative for children with disabilities at nurseries and the IBIK initiative for children in in-home day care. These are being adjusted in line with the new legal requirements of the BTHG.

The seamless transition should ensure that children with disabilities receive their services without interruption.

## Who is eligible for services?

### Children eligible for services

Children who have or are at risk of

- physical or
- mental disabilities or
- psychological or
- sensory impairments

and are thus highly restricted in their social involvement are eligible for integration support.

### Identification of needs

During the planning phase, LVR as the provider of integration support determines the individual needs of the child with disabilities, using a standardised tool for identifying requirements for children and adolescents (BEI\_NRW KiJu). This process also addresses the service recipients' desires, in particular.

### Additional services and costs

For children too young for school, LVR covers the costs of any and all special education services provided at institutions, regardless of the child's type of disability.

In addition, many other services and forms of support may be available for children with disabilities, including nursing, medical procedures, therapeutic equipment and treatments. The costs of some of these are covered by other entities such as local providers of welfare services and health and long-term care insurance companies.

**General information:** Because integration support is secondary to welfare services, LVR also determines if another provider is ultimately responsible for the service in question.





## No questions unanswered: Our advice services

### Advice at a location near you

Tailored advice face to face is key to identifying needs early on. Parents of children with disabilities are informed about solutions and the concrete forms of assistance available.

In future, advice will be provided directly at the LVR's 26 member organisations. This is the best way to accommodate the requirements and living situations of those in need of advice. The consultation can also lead to an application for integration support services, which we help you with.

### How to reach us

If you would like to obtain an overview of this extensive range of services or submit an application, then feel free to contact our local advisers. Further information is available at [www.lvr.de/bthg-jugend](http://www.lvr.de/bthg-jugend).



## Simple English: LVR helps children

We are LVR. That is an abbreviation.  
It stands for 'Landschaftsverband Rheinland'.

Children with disabilities need special help.  
That is why LVR is there for these children.  
In a way that is best for the children.

For example, very small children.  
Meaning, before they start school.  
That is when additional help can be most important.  
This help is called 'integration support'.  
Or integration services.  
Integration support is hard to understand.



Integration means being part of a group.  
For example, one of the children at a nursery.



Our help can be different for each child.  
Special educational needs are especially important.  
They support children in many areas.  
So that children can discover themselves.  
And thus develop better.



That is why this help can be found at different places.

- At a nursery
- In in-home day care
- At early intervention centres



But there are other forms of help.  
For example, medical therapies.  
Medicine and special educational needs can be combined.  
Meaning these kinds of help can be offered together.  
For example, at special early intervention centres.



There will be new rules for special education support from 2020,  
at which point LVR will be in charge.

Whenever one of the following institutions offers this help:

- A nursery
- In-home day care
- An early intervention centre

That is what the law says. The Federal Participation Act.



## LVR answers all questions

### We'll advise you at a location near you

Come in to one of our information centres.  
There are many information centres.  
There you will find everything you need to know about LVR's help services.  
Together we can find the right solution for your child.  
Perfect for your situation.  
We can also help with the application process.  
So that you receive integration support.

You can find an information centre near you online.  
Simply visit the page [www.lvr.de/bthg-jugend](http://www.lvr.de/bthg-jugend).





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**LVR** operates as a municipal association with around 19,000 employees  
for the 9.7 million people in Rhineland.

As Germany's largest provider of services for people with disabilities, it has dedicated itself  
to including them in all areas of life. Its guiding principle is quality for people.

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