



2.2.1. Child and youth work

Child and youth work in Germany reaches back more than **100 years**. It is enshrined in legislation (e.g., Book 8 of the Social Code). The aim of child and youth work is **subject formation** and **democratic development**: children and young people are to be assisted in acquiring autonomy, developing an ability to help choose and shape child and youth work activities, and becoming independent members of society and their communities.

It follows that child and youth work is **voluntary, open** to all young people, corresponds to their specific interests, and invites the **participation** of its target groups.

The child and youth work field includes **open child and youth work** and **child and youth association work** and extends to **other areas** such as international youth work and mobile and cultural youth work. It also incorporates organisations offering games, sports, nature/environmental activities, health activities, etc.