



The binding invitation procedure for

# Children's Early Diagnosis Examinations

## What is the task of the **central office** at the Charité?

The Federal State Government has commissioned the central office with the conduct of the invitation and response process. It has to synchronise various data for this:

- The central office receives the data of all Berlin children that are to complete the early diagnosis examinations from the register of residents.
- The data of newborns with the assigned screening ID numbers are forwarded by the screening laboratory.
- Paediatricians forward the barcode labels of every child, the name of the examination and the examination date to the central office after each early diagnosis examination.

This data allows the central office to see which children were not presented for examination. Their parents will then get a letter to remind them of the overdue examination. The examination can be made up for within a certain time (see yellow booklet).

After this time, the central office will notify Child and Youth Health Services (Kinder- und Jugendgesundheitsdienst - KJGD) of the respective district office (Bezirksamt) of the children that were not examined despite a repeated invitation. Health Services will then offer their parents a house call and counselling and support, if necessary.

This procedure is designed to prevent passing medical information to the central office. The process has been coordinated with Berlin's data protection officer.

Dear parents, do not be surprised if you are reminded of an early diagnosis examination. Please consider it a helpful reminder of a meaningful examination for your child.

**We wish you and your child all the best for the future!**

## Do you have **more questions?**

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For the protection and welfare of children in Berlin





## Berlin boosts **child protection** and **health**

Every child needs a good start in life. And health is the be-all and end-all in this. A series of early diagnosis examinations for children (U1 - U9) in Germany is intended to help detect developmental disorders and diseases early on. Necessary treatment can thus be initiated in time.

We wish to set a good first course for all children in Berlin and want all of them to complete all examinations. Therefore, Berlin has adopted a child protection law and will remind parents that have missed early diagnosis examinations in writing from now on. This is intended to increase participation in the voluntary examinations U4 to U9.

## Why is it so **important** to **complete all** early diagnosis examinations?

Because they help detect developmental disorders and diseases early so they can be treated in time. Time and content of each early diagnosis examination have been coordinated to allow for the fact that some disorders and diseases can only be detected after a certain age. And it is important to complete all examinations even if previous findings have been normal.

Early detection of maldevelopment in infants and small children is essential, because the first years of life are a crucial time in a child's healthy development. But preventive checkups are also important for older children. Children that have trouble with speech, vision, hearing or the ability to focus can get early help and are thus off to a good start in kindergarten and school.

Vaccine protection is also checked regularly to protect children against dangerous infectious diseases.

So:

Please take advantage of all early diagnosis options for the welfare of your child!

If you miss an early diagnosis examination, you will get a written reminder in the future.

## What is the **yellow booklet** for?

This booklet documents the results of the early diagnosis examinations. Every mother gets a yellow booklet when she leaves the delivery facility.

**The yellow booklet must be stored carefully and be presented to the paediatrician for each early diagnosis examination.**

## What is a **screening ID** and what is it **used for**?

The screening ID is an anonymous numeric code. It is made up of a sequence of twelve digits with three check digits. Newborns in Berlin have been issued such an ID at birth since April 1, 2010. Barcode labels with the ID from a sheet are pasted into the yellow booklet.

The screening ID is used for the so-called invitation and response procedure. The paediatrician forwards one label to the central office at the Charité after early diagnosis examinations U4 to U9. Parents that miss examination dates will be reminded to make up for the dates as needed.