



### About Us

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Treehouse e.V. is a parents' initiative English-German daycare and kindergarten located in Munich. We provide high quality, bilingual education and childcare for children from 18 months to 6 years of age. Treehouse meets the quality criteria set by the *Stadtjugendamt* and is therefore acknowledged and subsidised by the City Council of Munich.

### Quick Facts

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Treehouse e.V.:

Founded June 2006

Facility Opened:

May 2007

*NOTE: Treehouse is a city-funded parents' initiative. As a result, all children registered must reside within Munich city limits ('Stadt München' as opposed to 'Kreis München'). If in doubt, please check with the Kreisverwaltungsreferat (KVR).*

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m and Fridays, 8.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Facility Capacity:

Maximum 26 children

Daycare ("Caterpillars"):

18 months – 3 years (12:2 child - teacher ratio)

Kindergarten ("Butterflies"):

3 – 6 years (14:2 child - teacher ratio)

Application Fee:

€ 25 per child

Membership Fee:

€ 35 per family (payable upon acceptance at Treehouse)

Monthly Fees (including Childcare, Catering, Cleaning and Classroom Supply Fees):

Daycare: € 385 / month

Kindergarten: € 392 / month

Deposit:

€ 1000 (refundable minus € 100 wear and tear fee per year)



### Educational Concept

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Bilingual education doesn't happen simply because a child hears two languages. It's work! At Treehouse, teachers use specific strategies to help children become comfortable understanding and using both English and German. Following the **One-Person-One-Language (OPOL)** method, our kindergarten and daycare are each led by one native English-speaker and one native German-speaker, each of whom communicates with the children exclusively in her native tongue and gently encourages the children to respond accordingly. While leading our children through their daily activities, Treehouse teachers keep a careful eye on the development of language skills, viewing every activity (artwork, circle time, outdoor time, snacks and meals, independent work, etc.) as an opportunity to facilitate language learning. Our teachers speak clearly and use signs and gestures when possible, aware that they themselves are modeling language all day long through their own speech and interactions.

Although Treehouse is not a Montessori school, our founding members were inspired by the teachings of Maria Montessori, whose primary concern was for the development of the whole child. At Treehouse we strongly believe that when children feel respected and recognized as individuals, it not only deepens their sense of identity and improves their self-esteem, but it inspires them to show us how they want to grow, and not the other way around. Because of the background of one of our teachers, our daycare has achieved a decided Montessori influence that our parent group cherishes. In both the daycare and the kindergarten, children have the opportunity to use Montessori materials on a daily basis, materials specifically designed to help them develop fine motor skills, hone their senses, and practice daily tasks. We continue to invest in training and materials to bring an even more pronounced Montessori influence to both groups.

### Staff

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Our friendly staff consists of one native English speaker and one native German speaker per group. They have been chosen not only for their educational training and experience, but also for their enthusiasm for working closely with parents in an international bilingual setting.

### Location and Premises

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Treehouse is located on the ground floor of newly built premises at Schleißheimer Straße 53, an ideal location for families living in Schwabing, Maxvorstadt and neighbouring districts. Convenient for those using public transport, Treehouse is close to three U-Bahn stations: Theresienstrasse (U2), Josephsplatz (U2), or Stiglmaierplatz (U1), and can also be reached by Trams 20 and 21 (Sandstraße) and Bus 154.

As the first tenants to occupy this beautiful 140 sqm space (consisting of two large rooms, a kitchen, two bathrooms and storage room) we have the fortunate position of being able to personalise our new home. And with the help of our very own in-house interior architect, Treehouse has turned into a fun, warm, colourful and inviting place for all to enjoy. Behind our premises we have use of a fenced-in communal garden with play equipment. We also make regular visits to Maßmann Park and the Josephsplatz playground, located several blocks away.



### Meals

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Every day our children enjoy a hot, delicious and nutritious lunch prepared and delivered that morning by a local organic catering company. As well as this, Treehouse provides all children with a healthy morning snack consisting of whole-grain breads and a selection of organic fruit.



### What is a Parents' Initiative?

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A parents' initiative relies on the willing participation of all its parents to keep operational costs at an affordable level.

This is especially true at Treehouse. Not only are we an ambitious new parents' initiative still in our startup phase, but our dual set-up as daycare and kindergarten gives us a more complicated administrative structure than most other parent initiatives. Treehouse cannot stay open without the dedicated and persistent labor of each participating family. While the parental workload at Treehouse is certainly heavier than at other facilities, the pay-offs are great, as the involvement of our parents plays an integral part in maintaining the friendly, community atmosphere we are so proud to have created at Treehouse.

#### ***How many hours are parents expected to put in?***

Each set of parents takes full ownership of one or more Treehouse job (e.g. Payroll, Health and Hygiene, Purchasing) and is required to contribute a **minimum** of twelve hours per month. (If two children attend Treehouse, the total family commitment is eighteen hours per month). Each year, four parents are elected by collective vote to our Board, which oversees the running of our daycare and kindergarten with the help of our respective teams (Administration/Legal, Staff Relations, Facility, Communications, Finance, Parent Relations). Leadership roles rotate from family to family. If you join Treehouse, you or your parenting partner should expect to serve as a Team Leader and/or Board member at some point during your stay.

#### ***Do the parents do any of the cooking or cleaning themselves?***

Children's meals are prepared and delivered to Treehouse by a professional organic catering company, so no cooking is required. We have also hired a professional cleaner to do the main share of our cleaning work at Treehouse. However, we still need parents to take responsibility for tidying the kitchen, cleaning toys, washing towels and performing other light maintenance duties. These small tasks are covered by one family each week on a rotating basis. Given the amount of families involved at Treehouse, we are happy to inform you that the obligatory "Cleaning Week" comes around on average only two or three times a year!

#### ***How often are Parent Meetings held?***

Parents meet once bi-monthly (on the first Tuesday of every other month) for an official Treehouse Parents' Evening. This is when important issues are discussed, updates are provided and you have the opportunity to vote on matters that directly concern you and your child. It is therefore expected that all parents make an effort to attend.



### Membership in Treehouse e.V.

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Treehouse e.V. is the legal entity overseeing the operations of Treehouse daycare and kindergarten. It is a non-profit organisation established under German law and is registered with the local court.

Upon acceptance at Treehouse, one of the parents is expected to become a member of Treehouse e.V. The membership fee is € 35.

A Memorandum of Association ('Satzung') governs the way our organisation is run and sets out points such as:

- procedural aspects of membership meetings, and your rights and obligations as a member
- procedural aspects of parents' meetings, and your rights and obligations as a member
- the election of the board members and their rights and obligations

Apart from three board members, there are the posts of secretary and treasurer to be filled. Elections are held once a year. All work carried out in the respective functions is done on a voluntary basis.

In addition to the Memorandum of Association, Internal By-laws ('Geschäftsordnung') govern the daily running of the daycare and kindergarten. They set out points such as:

- conditions for being accepted
- details of the trial period
- deposit and monthly fees
- opening hours
- holiday periods
- procedures when children are sick
- health & safety rules
- insurance details

Membership in Treehouse e.V. offers you the opportunity to be actively involved and engaged in shaping the decisions and operations which contribute to your child's experience. We invite you to join us in our common goal to provide high quality, bilingual education and childcare at Treehouse daycare and kindergarten.



### **Background: History of Treehouse**

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Treehouse e.V., a parents' initiative, was founded by a group of enthusiastic parents from München-Schwabing who met through an English playgroup in a local community centre. They hailed from areas across the globe: Germany, Ireland, Canada, Australia, UK and the United States. All of them were raising their small children in a bilingual environment in which English and German were spoken in equal measure. They shared the problem of finding suitable and affordable daycare and kindergarten options for their young children. They wished for an intercultural, stimulating and compassionate environment for their children and a supportive, international community for themselves -- a place where they and their children could form enduring friendships with other, similarly-situated families.

After twelve months of planning, learning, organizing, overcoming setbacks, and starting anew, the dream became a reality. Treehouse e.V. opened its doors in May of 2007 with a daycare for 12 children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years. Four months later, Treehouse doubled in size, adding a kindergarten group and additional staff able to care for children between 3 and 6 years of age.

In addition to creating a top-quality English-German daycare and kindergarten, the original group of parents has also achieved the second half of their dream: the founding of Treehouse e.V. has resulted in a strong network of parents, able to pool their ideas and strengths, all the while offering friendship and support to each other.



### How Placements are Determined

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Based on the original goals of our founding members, Treehouse offers childcare for the following groups:

- bilingual (English/German) families
- families where both parents are native English speakers, raising their children in a German environment
- families where both parents are German native speakers but one parent actively speaks English with their child on a daily basis.

As well as the bilingual background of the child, we also take into consideration what age and gender will best balance the dynamic of our current groups, especially the kindergarten. We also look for parents who understand and actively support the concept of a parents' initiative and the responsibilities that go with it. We are particularly interested in people who enjoy being on a team and who work well with others.

### Contact Us

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If you have any questions about Treehouse, please contact us at our email address:  
**[info@treehouse-kids.de](mailto:info@treehouse-kids.de)**

A monthly tour (on the first Friday of every month at 2.15pm) gives prospective parents the chance to look around our premises and ask questions.  
Please contact us ([info@treehouse-kids.de](mailto:info@treehouse-kids.de)) if you would like to attend one of our upcoming tours.

We look forward to hearing from you, or seeing you soon at Treehouse!

**Treehouse e.V.**  
**Schleißheimerstr. 53A**  
**80797 Munich (Schwabing)**  
**Germany**

**Your child must be at least 1 year of age before applying.**



**Registration form**

Child's first name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's surname \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Language (native) \_\_\_\_\_ Language (second) \_\_\_\_\_

Address\* \_\_\_\_\_

City and postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's first name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's surname \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (*this is how we will initially contact you*) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred entry date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Program Needs**

Treehouse is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays. Drop-off time is from 8 a.m. till 9 a.m. We operate staggered pick-up times.

Please indicate the hours you would be interested in signing your child up for. This does not commit you to these hours but gives us an indication of group sizes.

Pick –up time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12.30					
14:00					
15:00					n/a
16:00					n/a

**Background**

How did you hear about Treehouse daycare/kindergarten?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is bilingual education important to you / your child?

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you expect your child to gain during his/her time at Treehouse daycare/kindergarten?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your anticipated length of stay in Munich?

\_\_\_\_\_

At Treehouse e.V. , the daycare and kindergarten are treated as separate entities. Acceptance into the daycare does not guarantee acceptance into the kindergarten; however, priority for kindergarten spots is given to those already in the daycare. As Treehouse is a parent-run organisation, with parents providing their time on a voluntary basis, we are not able to respond to applications we receive that do not fulfill our criteria.