



1. Grundbegriffe der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe

Examining English and German *children's services* together is a fascinating undertaking. Indeed, *studies comparing children's services systems* in different countries form an arguably underrepresented area of *children's services research*. By and large though, the reader looking for striking contrasts may be disappointed. At first glance, the *comparison* of the English and German systems certainly reveals more *commonalities* than differences. In both countries, services are largely based on *legislation* reflecting the *children and families policy* of the late 1980s: the English Children Act 1989 and the German *Child and Youth Services Act*. Strengthening *participation* and supporting parents in *raising* their children were key themes in both sets of legislation. Important *amendments* to legislation in both countries were made during the mid-2000s. The focus of these *laws* was improving systems for *protecting* children, which has been a particular *concern* in the last decade.

Children's services are *provided* by a mix of *agencies*. In Germany the *department for children, young people, and families* has a long history as the *authority* that plans, coordinates, and sometimes provides local services. In England, *local authority children's services* play a similar role. Alongside such *statutory agencies*, each country has a range of services for children, young people, and families provided by *non-statutory agencies*.

Children's services are diverse in their *objectives*, form, and *client groups*. *Service users* include babies, *toddlers*, *primary school-aged children*, *adolescents*, and, of course, their parents or other *caregivers*. In a broad sense, children's services encompass everything from *early education* to *youth work*, and overlap with practice fields as diverse as *early intervention* and *youth justice*. Some *services* have an *individual case orientation*, that is, they respond to the *individual needs* of certain families. Other services have a *community orientation*, that is, they seek to address *community need*. Some work may be seen as having a largely *administrative*, *bureaucratic*, or management nature. Other work may be primarily *social pedagogical*, *relationship-oriented*, or *therapeutic*.

Much work with children, young people, and families is *supportive* in nature, helping parents with the *challenges* of *child-raising*, and helping

young people with the difficulties of *growing up*. In both England and Germany, there are specific services for individual families, where *bringing up children* is resulting in difficulties. Such individual services are often described as *family support*. They are *preventative* and *low threshold* in nature. However, some work has a more controlling function, and a more *reactive* nature. The area of *child protection* is an example of such practice. Here, the *threshold* for interventions is usually higher. In both England and Germany, *protection* is based on concerns in one of two areas: *neglect* or *abuse*. Abuse is often separated into three subcategories: *physical abuse*, *emotional abuse*, and *sexual abuse*. In England, in the early 2000s, the term *protection* was replaced by the idea of *safeguarding*. This concept was more broadly defined than simply *keeping children safe* and protecting them from *harm*. It included aspects such as being healthy and enjoying *education* or *leisure pursuits*.

German native speakers should note that children's services are never known as *youth services*, youth welfare services, or child and youth services in English. Using these phrases may therefore confuse English native speakers. However, the phrase *services for children, young people, and families* is commonly used.

children's services ≈ Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, Jugendhilfe
study Studie, Untersuchung
compare vergleichen
children's services system ≈ Kinder- und Jugendhilfesystem
children's services research ≈ Jugendhilfeforschung, Kinder- und Jugendhilfeforschung
comparison Vergleich
commonality Gemeinsamkeit
legislation Gesetzgebung
children and families policy ≈ Kinder-, Jugend- und Familienpolitik
Child and Youth Services Act Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz
participation Partizipation, Beteiligung, Teilnahme, Teilhabe
raise erziehen
amendment Änderung, Novellierung
law Gesetz
protect schützen
concern Sorge
provide erbringen, anbieten, bereit stellen
agency Träger
department for children, young people and families ≈ Jugendamt, Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, Amt für

Kinder, Jugend und Familien, Fachbereich Kinder, Jugend und Familie
authority Behörde
local authority children's services ≈ Jugendamt, Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, Amt für Kinder, Jugend und Familien, Fachbereich Kinder, Jugend und Familie
statutory agency öffentlicher Träger, staatlicher Träger
non-statutory agency freier Träger, nichtstaatlicher Träger, nichtöffentlicher Träger
objective Ziel, Zielsetzung, Zielrichtung
client group Klientengruppe
service user NutzerIn, KlientIn, AdressatIn
toddler Kleinkind
primary school-aged child Kind im Grundschulalter
adolescent ≈ Jugendliche/r
caregiver ≈ Erziehungsperson
early education frühe Bildung
youth work Jugendarbeit, Jugendarbeit, Jugendsozialarbeit und erzieherischer Kinder- und Jugendschutz, Kinder- und Jugendarbeit
early intervention Frühe Hilfe
youth justice ≈ Jugendstrafrecht

service Dienst, Dienstleistung, Hilfe,
Angebot

individual case orientation

Einzelfallorientierung

individual need Einzelbedarf

community orientation ≈

Gemeinwesenorientierung,

Sozialraumorientierung, Feldorientierung

community need ≈ Bedarf im

Gemeinwesen

administrative administrativ, verwaltend,

verwaltungstechnisch

bureaucratic bürokratisch

social pedagogical sozialpädagogisch

relationship-oriented beziehungsorientiert

therapeutic therapeutisch

supportive unterstützend, stützend,

supportiv

challenge Herausforderung

child-raising Kindererziehung

grow up aufwachsen, erwachsen werden

bring up children Kinder erziehen

family support erzieherische Hilfe(n)

preventative präventiv

low threshold niedrigschwellig,
niederschwellig

reactive reaktiv

child protection Kinderschutz

threshold Schwelle

protection Schutz

neglect Vernachlässigung, Verwahrlosung

abuse ≈ Misshandlung, Missbrauch

physical abuse körperliche Misshandlung

emotional abuse psychische

Misshandlung

sexual abuse sexueller Missbrauch,

Missbrauch

safeguarding ≈ Schutz

keep a child safe ein Kind vor Gefahren

bewahren, ein Kind schützen

harm Schädigung

education Bildung

leisure pursuit Freizeitbeschäftigung

youth services ≈ Jugendarbeit,

Jugendsozialarbeit und erzieherischer

Kinder- und Jugendschutz

services for children, young people

and families ≈ Kinder und Jugendhilfe,

Jugendhilfe

2. Kindheit

Childhood is the phase in the *life course* that comes before *youth* and *adulthood*. It is often subdivided into various stages. *Early childhood* is the first period, which some authors consider to start at birth, others after *babyhood* (or *infancy*) and *toddlerhood*. *Mid-childhood* (or early *primary school-age*), *late childhood*, and *adolescence* follow. We may thus differentiate between babies (or *infants*), *toddlers*, *young children*, and *pre-pubescent children*. The field of study concerned with childhood is known as *childhood studies* or *childhood research*.

Being a child is sometimes considered a *natural biological given*. However, both childhood and the state of being a child are *social constructions*. Children have traditionally been seen as *innocent*, *naive*, *unspoilt*, and *pure*. Some *images of children* stress their *weakness*, *vulnerability*, *helplessness*, *passivity*, and *dependency*. There has, therefore, long been a view that children should be *protected*, so that their *welfare* can be secured. However, *images of childhood* and *representations of childhood* are by no means universal. *Understandings of childhood* are *historically relative* and *culturally relative*. The twentieth century is sometimes referred to as the *century of the child*. Modern Western *child policy* reflects ideas found in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*: children as active and *autonomous social actors* with *competence* and *agency*. *Children's voices* are to be heard and they have *participatory rights*.

Many authors discuss the *basic needs of children*. Meeting these needs may be seen as *preconditions* for healthy *child development*. *Maslow's hierarchy of needs* is a famous example of such a framework, and some authors have also considered child-specific basic needs. The most fundamental of these is arguably a good *attachment* to the parents and a *nurturing parent-child relationship*. This gives *warmth*, love, a feeling of *security*, and a sense of *basic trust*. Time and attention from parents, *physical integrity*, *developmentally appropriate experiences*, *clear boundaries*, and being treated as an individual are other commonly cited needs. Parents vary in their approaches to *child-raising*. One established classification of *parenting styles* distinguishes styles as *authoritative*, *authoritarian*, and *permissive*.

Developmental psychology, *educational science*, and *neuroscience* have given us an understanding of children's *emotional development*, *social*

development, motor development, and cognitive development. A child is no longer seen as a tabula rasa or blank slate to be shaped by child raisers as they wish. Instead, children are genetically pre-programmed, and their maturation involves passing developmental milestones in developmental stages. Learning research and learning theories examine and model how children learn. Early childhood learning is learning through interaction with others and learning through play: play in the open air, play with friends, play with adults, children's games, practice games, pretend play (sometimes called symbolic play), and games with rules. Play is imagination, fantasy, creativity, and an exploration of the child's social world.

childhood Kindheit, Kindesalter

life course Lebenslauf

youth Jugend, Jugendalter, Jugendzeit

adulthood Erwachsenenalter

early childhood frühe Kindheit

babyhood Säuglingsalter

infancy Säuglingsalter

toddlerhood Kleinkindalter

mid-childhood mittlere Kindheit

primary school-age Grundschulalter

late childhood späte Kindheit

adolescence Adoleszenz

infant ≈ Säugling

toddler Kleinkind

young child junges Kind

pre-pubescent child vorpubertäres Kind

childhood studies ≈ Kindheitsforschung,

Kinderforschung

childhood research ≈ Kindheitsforschung,

Kinderforschung

natural biological given biologische

Naturtatsache

social construction soziale Konstruktion,

soziales Konstrukt

innocent unschuldig

naive naiv

unspoilt unverdorben

pure rein

image of children Kindesbild, Kinderbild

weakness Schwäche

vulnerability ≈ Verwundbarkeit,

Vulnerabilität, Schutzbedürftigkeit

helplessness Hilfslosigkeit

passivity Passivität

dependency Abhängigkeit

protect schützen

welfare Wohl

image of childhood Kindheitsbild

representation of childhood

Repräsentation von Kindheit,

Kindheitsbild

understanding of childhood ≈

Kindheitsverständnis

historically relative historisch relativ

culturally relative kulturell relativ

century of the child Jahrhundert des

Kindes

child policy Kinderpolitik

United Nations Convention on the

Rights of the Child Übereinkommen über

die Rechte des Kindes, UN-

Kinderrechtskonvention

autonomous autonom, selbstständig

social actor sozialer Akteur

competence Kompetenz

agency Agency

child's voice Stimme des Kindes

participatory right Teilnahmerecht,

Beteiligungszrecht, Partizipationsrecht

child's basic need kindliches

Grundbedürfnis

precondition Voraussetzung

child development Kindesentwicklung

Maslow's hierarchy of needs Maslows

Bedürfnishierarchie, Maslowsche

Bedürfnishierarchie, Bedürfnishierarchie

von Maslow

attachment Bindung

nurturing fördernd

parent-child relationship Eltern-Kind-

Beziehung, Eltern-Kind-Verhältnis

warmth Wärme

security Geborgenheit

basic trust Unvertrauen

physical integrity körperliche

Unversehrtheit

developmentally appropriate experience

entwicklungsgerechte Erfahrung

clear boundaries klare Grenzen

child-raising Kindererziehung

parenting style Erziehungsstil

authoritative autoritativ, sozialintegrativ

authoritarian autoritär

permissive permissiv

developmental psychology

Entwicklungspsychologie

educational science

Erziehungswissenschaft

neuroscience Neurowissenschaft

emotional development emotionale

Entwicklung

social development soziale Entwicklung

motor development motorische

Entwicklung

cognitive development kognitive

Entwicklung

blank slate unbeschriebenes Blatt

child-raiser ≈ Erziehungsperson

genetically pre-programmed genetisch
vorprogrammiert

maturation Reifung

developmental milestone Meilenstein

der Entwicklung

developmental stage Entwicklungsstufe

learning research Lernforschung

learning theory Lerntheorie

early childhood learning frühkindliches

Lernen

learning through play Lernen im Spiel

play in the open air Spielen im Freien

children's game Kinderspiel

practice game Übungsspiel

pretend play so-tun-als-ob-Spiel

symbolic play Symbolspiel

game with rules Regelspiel

imagination Imagination,

Vorstellungsvermögen, Vorstellungskraft

exploration Erkundung, Exploration,

Erforschung

child's social world soziale Welt des

Kindes

3. Jugend

Youth is a *phase* in the *human life course* in which one's *identity* takes shape, one's *personality* develops, one's *self-concept* and *self-image* alter, and *life attitudes* and *value orientations* crystallise. The *stage* of youth comes between *childhood* and *adulthood*. Occasionally, youth, the *teenage years*, and *adolescence* are considered synonymous terms. However, in the English language, youth is normally considered a longer period than adolescence, with a later onset, perhaps at around the age of 15 or so. Nonetheless, the precise beginning and end of youth and adolescence may be hard to pin down. These age boundaries are also changing. German language authors often discuss the *early arrival of the phase of youth*, the *protraction of youth*, and the so-called *destructuring of youth*. It should be noted that the English terms youth and adolescence are used in different *disciplinary contexts*. Adolescence is a term primarily used in medical or psychology *papers*, youth a term more common in sociology and social work literature. One can talk of *youth research*, *youth studies*, and the *sociology of youth*.

People who find themselves in the earlier part of youth are referred to as *young people*. If a little older they may also be described as *young adults*. The male and female forms are *young women* and *young men*. The terms boy and girl are normally only used for younger children. In Britain, the plural expression *youths* is used to describe a group of young people, but the expression is not neutral. Talk of youths carries strong negative connotations: of *disengaged* young men, of *criminal behaviour*, and the like. In English, expressions such as *teenie*, *teenager*, *kid*, and *youngster* are very informal indeed and are usually avoided in *academic contexts*. For those wishing to describe a particular life stage more accurately, age groups such as *prepuberty*, *preadolescence*, *early adolescence*, *mid-adolescence*, *late adolescence*, *post adolescence*, and *early adulthood* may be more helpful. Young people are generally referred to as children in British law until they reach the age of 18, although the *age of criminal responsibility* in Britain is 10 years.

Youth may be described as a *life stage* characterised by *transitions*. The *transition from childhood to youth* is accompanied by biological change: *sexual maturity*, *growth spurts*, *hormonal change*, and *mood swings*. However, *growing up* is more than reaching *biological maturity*. Adolescence is a transition from *dependence* to *independence*. *Entering employment*, for

instance, allows increasing autonomy from one's parents, and may be a first step in *breaking away from the parental home*. Indeed, in terms of *role models* and *socialisation*, adolescence is characterised by young people *turning towards peers* at the expense of the *parent-child relationship*. This re-orientation is accompanied by *boundary testing*, a *willingness to take risks*, and *rites of passage*. In this time of *storm and stress*, *psychosocial development* is sometimes understood with reference to the concept of the *psychosocial moratorium*.

Some approaches to examining *youth behaviour* and *youth identity* focus on culture. Here youth is spoken of as an *age generation*, such as today's *pragmatic generation* in Germany. Such perspectives see youth in terms of *youth cultures* and *youth subcultures*, located in a particular historical period. Members of an *age cohort* may well share values, *worldviews*, styles, and lifestyles. They may be involved in particular *social movements*. Such ideas of youth culture can lead to a model of *generational conflict* or even *generational war*, as youth cultures become *counter-cultures*.

youth Jugend, Jugendalter, Jugendzeit

phase Phase

human life course menschlicher

Lebenslauf

identity Identität

self-concept Selbstkonzept

self-image Selbstbild

life attitude Lebenseinstellung

value orientation Werteorientierung

stage Phase, Stadium, Stufe

childhood Kindheit

adulthood Erwachsenenalter

teenage years Teenageralter

adolescence Adoleszenz

early arrival of the phase of youth

Verfrühung der Jugendphase

protraction of youth Verlängerung der

Jugend

destructuring of youth Entstrukturierung

der Jugend, Strukturwandel der

Jugendphase

disciplinary context disziplinärer

Zusammenhang

paper Aufsatz, Artikel, Buchbeitrag

youth research ≈ Jugendforschung

youth studies ≈ Jugendforschung

sociology of youth Jugendsoziologie

young person Jugendliche/r, jüngere/r

Jugendliche/r

young adult junger Mensch, junge/r

Volljährige/r, junge/r Erwachsene/r,

Jugendliche/r, Heranwachsende/r

young woman Mädchen, junge Frau

young man Junge, junger Mann

youths ≈ Problemjugendliche, Jugendliche

disengaged entfremdet, randständig

criminal behaviour kriminelles Verhalten

academic context wissenschaftlicher

Zusammenhang

prepuberty Vorpubertät

preadolescence Präadoleszenz

early adolescence frühe Adoleszenz

mid-adolescence mittlere Adoleszenz

late adolescence späte Adoleszenz

post adolescence Postadoleszenz

early adulthood frühes Erwachsenenalter,

angehendes Erwachsenenalter

age of criminal responsibility

Strafmündigkeitsalter

life stage Lebensphase

transition Übergang, Transition

transition from childhood to youth

Übergang von der Kindheit in die Jugend

sexual maturity Geschlechtsreife,

Sexualreife

growth spurt Wachstumsschub

hormonal change hormonelle Veränderung

mood swing Stimmungsschwankung

growing up Erwachsenwerden

biological maturity biologische Reife

dependence Abhängigkeit,

Unselbstständigkeit

independence Eigenständigkeit,

Selbstständigkeit

entering employment ins Erwerbsleben
eintreten

breaking away from the parental home
Ablösung vom Elternhaus, Trennung vom
Elternhaus

role model Vorbild

socialisation Sozialisation

turning towards peers Hinwendung zu den
Peers

parent-child relationship Eltern-Kind-
Beziehung, Eltern-Kind-Verhältnis

boundary testing Testen der Grenzen,
Grenztesten

willingness to take risks Risikofreude

rite of passage Übergangsritus

storm and stress Sturm und Drang

psychosocial development psychosoziale
Entwicklung

psychosocial moratorium psychosoziales
Moratorium

youth behaviour Jugendverhalten

youth identity Jugendidentität

age generation Altersgeneration

pragmatic generation pragmatische
Generation

youth culture Jugendkultur

youth subculture Jugendsubkultur,
Jugendteilkultur

age cohort Alterskohorte

worldview Weltbild, Weltanschauung

social movement soziale Bewegung

generational conflict Generationenkonflikt

generational war Kampf der Generationen

counter-culture Gegenkultur

4. Öffentliche Träger der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe

In England and Germany, *children's services* are provided by a network of *agencies*. These agencies belong to the *statutory sector*, *voluntary sector*, and *private sector*. In both countries, *legislation* places certain key *powers* and *duties* relating to children's services with certain *statutory bodies*. In English law, these particular *bodies* are formally known as *children's services authorities*. In both England and Germany, the bodies in question function at the *local authority level*. Statutory children's services are anchored in *local government*. This may actually involve various *tiers* of government: *parishes*, *districts*, certain *towns* or *cities* (in Germany, those so-called '*district-free*' ones), or even, for larger cities, individual *boroughs*. *Local authorities* are *public bodies* which *set up* and run other *authorities*. These authorities have two roles. Firstly, they have *overall responsibility* in coordinating the *provision* of children's services. Secondly, they directly provide some services.

The German authority for children, young people, and families is the *Jugendamt*. 'Jugendamt' is a somewhat difficult term to translate. The reference to youth is highly idiomatic: illogical in the context of services which are primarily oriented on *childhood* and *parenthood*. The common translation found in dictionaries is *youth welfare office*. However, English native speakers will probably not understand this term as describing a department for children, young people, and families. German native speakers will be better understood if they use a term such as *department for children, young people, and families*, which also corresponds neatly to modern German terminology. Germany has a similar agency at the *Bundesland-level*, namely the *state children's department*. It goes without saying that this agency has no British equivalent.

The German institution of the *Jugendamt* dates back to the early twentieth century. The authority responsible for similar tasks in England has experienced less historical continuity. English children's services have seen waves of *organisational change* over the decades. Post-World War II Britain had *children's departments*. In the early 1970s, these were replaced by *generic Social Services Departments* (often known as *SSDs*, or simply *social services* for short). These *departments* also offered adults' services, and therefore have no German equivalent. Such Social Services Departments no longer

exist, since, in recent *reorganisation*, adults' services and children's services have been re-separated. Today this local authority department is usually simply known as *local authority children's services*, although variants such as *children's services department* are also in use. These services are commonly separated into different parts: the *youth service*, *early years and childcare*, *children's social care*, and, perhaps confusingly for the German reader, *education*. A key *team* in this department is the *children's social care team*. This team may be compared to the so-called *generic social work service* in Germany.

Other key statutory bodies in children's services include the various *trusts*, *boards*, and *committees*. Such bodies usually have a management function, and usually have *membership* made up of *representatives* of *local agencies*. Children's trusts in England, and the so-called *children's services trusts* (commonly, if confusingly, known as youth welfare committees) in Germany are examples. Trusts of this sort play a key role in *children's services planning*. The German children's services trust forms half of the *bipartite* department for children, young people, and families, the other component being the department's *administration*. Such planning bodies help coordinate *integrated systems of care* with *no gaps in provision*: a *seamless provision of care*.

children's services Kinder- und

Jugendhilfe, Jugendhilfe

provide erbringen, anbieten, bereit stellen

agency Träger

statutory sector öffentlicher Sektor,

staatlicher Sektor

voluntary sector ≈ gemeinnütziger Sektor

private sector Privatwirtschaft, privater

Sektor

legislation Gesetzgebung

power Befugnis, Kann-Vorschrift

duty Pflicht, Muss-Vorschrift, Verpflichtung,

Leistungsverpflichtung, Dienstpflicht

statutory body öffentlicher Träger,

staatlicher Träger

body Träger

children's services authority ≈ Träger der

öffentlichen Jugendhilfe, örtlicher Träger

der öffentlichen Jugendhilfe

local authority level kommunale Ebene

local government Kommunalverwaltung,

kommunale Selbstverwaltung,

Gemeindeverwaltung

tier Ebene

parish ≈ kreisangehörige Gemeinde

district Kreis

town Stadt, Kleinstadt, Mittelstadt

city Stadt, Großstadt

district-free ≈ kreisfrei

borough Bezirk, Stadtbezirk

local authority ≈ Kommune, Gemeinde

public body öffentlicher Träger

set up errichten

authority Behörde, Fachbehörde

overall responsibility

Gesamtverantwortung

provision Erbringung, Angebot,

Bereitstellung

Jugendamt Jugendamt, Amt für Kinder,

Jugendliche und Familien, Amt für Kinder,

Jugend und Familien, Fachbereich Kinder,

Jugend und Familie

childhood Kindheit

parenthood ≈ Elternschaft

youth welfare office ≈ Jugendamt

department for children, young people

and families ≈ Jugendamt, Amt für

Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien, Amt für

Kinder, Jugend und Familien, Fachbereich

Kinder, Jugend und Familie

bundesland-level Länderebene

state children's department ≈

Landesjugendamt