

everyday life  
of young children in  
accommodation centres for  
refugees in Germany, Berlin  
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## Philosophy - project aims -methodology

- Based in new childhood studies and critical migration studies; children`s agency.
- ➔ To generate systematic, empirical knowledge on how young accompanied refugee children organize and experience their daily life in refugee centres.
- Child-centered participatory, qualitative, exploratory ethnographic field research in 4 refugee centres in Berlin.
- Tandem-research, interdisciplinary, multi-ethnic.

In co-operation with

# Findings

1. Seen from the inside, the „field“ of refugee centres seems a highly irregular place in terms of rules, communication modes, roles and functions, children rights and access to resources.
2. Limited privacy for family life. Privacy in public!
3. Space is socially produced. Against all odds children express their agency in the way they inhabit and make usage of space within the adult imposed order of the centre.
4. Professional staff challenged by professional ethics and insufficient structures and resources.
5. Role definition and functions of staff are open to ad hoc interpretation/role confusion.

# Recommendations

Mass accommodation centres are not safe-places for accompanied minors. Refugee children are foremost children and need their children's rights implemented.

1. Recognition by professional staff of coping strategies employed by children and parents.
2. Not 'for' but 'with'! Develop participation structures with children and parents.
3. Provide high quality care and educational offers for all children!
4. Create supportive structures facilitating staff (self-) reflexivity.
5. Create independent supportive structures for parents for self-reflection, reflection and information on German system of early education and care; counselling support for parents.

Thank you very much for your  
attention !!

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for further project information

<https://situationsansatz.de/everyday-life-for-refugee-children-up-to-age-6-in-collective-and-emergency-accommodation-centres.html>