



Who we are (organisation)

The Child and Youth Welfare Association – AGJ is a **central forum and network that unites over 100 organisations, institutions and associations in the public and independent child and youth welfare sector in Germany**. Founded in 1949, the AGJ works to strengthen and coordinate child and youth welfare structures at federal level. It serves as an advocate, cross-sectoral alliance and cooperative platform for the further development of the child and youth welfare system and its services by promoting dialogue and professional development in child and youth welfare at national, European and international levels.

The growing demand for services reflects the increasing importance of child and youth welfare in society. In the light of current and future challenges, such as demographic change and the shortage of qualified professionals, the AGJ recognises the need for continuous development of the child and youth welfare sector, with a focus on improving the participation and opportunities of young people. The AGJ is **committed to a society in which every individual is equally accepted and diversity is celebrated**. The organisation considers child and youth welfare as a key actor in promoting equal opportunities and participation for young people. The AGJ is committed to the belief that participation is not only a right enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and in German law (SGB VIII), but also essential for creating positive conditions for young people's development. Successful services and initiatives are developed in cooperation with young people and their families within the context of their lives. Although it is funded by the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, **the AGJ operates independently as a non-profit public interest organisation** and has its own democratic structure. Its highest decision-making body is the Annual General Meeting. The Board, made up of elected representatives of the member organisations, meets regularly to discuss upcoming issues, take important decisions and monitor the implementation of the plans and decisions adopted by the General Assembly. In order to fulfil the mission of the AGJ and to promote professional communication and cooperation, specialist working committees, made up largely of AGJ members and appointed by the Board, meet regularly to discuss issues in key areas of child and youth welfare. These committees work closely with the AGJ office, which acts as the operational interface.

Though the AGJ does not provide direct services for children and young people, it supports its members who are responsible for implementing these services. **The AGJ is dedicated to fostering a democratic society by promoting participation, diversity, and reducing social inequalities through child and youth welfare.**

What do we do? (presenting our work)

The AGJ and its bodies **provide a forum for discussion and exchange** for its members and its network of institutions, organizations and associations in the field of child and youth welfare. The organisation is also involved in policy advocacy and regularly **develops position papers, working materials and publications** to guide professionals and institutions in the sector. It **organises symposia, conferences and events** that promote professional development and provide **opportunities for knowledge exchange**.

In addition to its core activities, the AGJ hosts a number of projects and tasks that address current challenges and promote innovation in child and youth welfare: **The Portal Child and Youth Services** provides up-to-date news in all areas of child and youth welfare, as well as in relevant areas of policy, research and law. It also offers a comprehensive job market, a calendar of training and professional events and a database of materials. **jugendgerecht.de** is a project for the promotion of independent youth policy and focuses on the creation of think tanks for youth-friendly policies in the areas of digitalisation, climate protection, housing, health, mobility, education and finance. It also offers networking and transfer opportunities in the field of independent youth policy and cooperates with partners at federal, state and local level. The **Advocacy Project Child, Youth and Family Health Ambassador** promotes cooperation with the health system and other social services in order to strengthen health promotion for young people and their families. The project **Digital Competencies in Child and Youth Welfare** examines the development of digitalisation in child and youth welfare and the associated training needs, in cooperation with the University of Cologne.

Furthermore, the AGJ administers the **German Child and Youth Welfare Prize**, which is awarded every two years in recognition of outstanding achievements in child and youth welfare. Every four years, the AGJ organises the **German Youth Welfare Congress (DJHT)** – the biggest child and youth welfare summit in Europe. The Congress and Exhibition focuses on key challenges for child and youth welfare – its structures, professionals and concepts and provides an important platform for dialogue and development within the sector.

Who is our target group? (who we are addressing)

The Child and Youth Welfare Association – AGJ addresses a wide range of professionals and institutions in the field of child and youth welfare in Germany. Its services are primarily aimed at decision-making bodies and professionals, both paid and voluntary, working in the field. The AGJ offers various services to these groups, including policy advocacy at the legislative and executive levels, representing the interests of child and youth welfare. It develops and disseminates position papers, working materials and publications to inform and guide professionals. The AGJ also organises conferences and events to promote professional development and facilitate exchange on key issues within the sector. Through these efforts, the AGJ aims to strengthen the professional community, improve the quality of child and youth welfare services and advocate for the needs and rights of children and young people at national, European and international levels.

What can you find at our exhibition stand?

The AGJ will be represented at the DJHT exhibition with a centrally located stand (no. E29). Organised in the form of a café, the AGJ and its projects will present their working methods and positions, make events visible and provide access to publications. Based on the AGJ's three guiding principles of communication-competence-cooperation, visitors will be encouraged to find out about specialist topics and enter into dialogue on them. There will be low-threshold participation opportunities that are also fun (voting columns, selfie station).

Further Information



[agj.de](https://www.agj.de)



[jugendgerecht.de](https://www.jugendgerecht.de)



[jugendhilfeportal.de](https://www.jugendhilfeportal.de)



[dikoju.de](https://www.dikoju.de)