

## **Childcare Services – JFC Brunssum**

### **Introduction**

1. Childcare services are available for families assigned to JFC Brunssum, but not all are supported by UK Government Childcare financial support initiatives, such as Tax Free Childcare and/or 15/30 hours Free Childcare, or equally accessible and assured. In particular, school wrap-around childcare may not be accessible for some families outside the hours of 0900-1500. This brief aims to provide an overview of available services, eligibility, likelihood of securing a place, and relative costs.

### **AFNORTH International School (AIS)**

2. A full brief is available from the EJSU website. The British section at AIS can provide services for pre-Reception (FS1) children from the term after their third birthday. FS1 hours are 0900 until 1200 and Extended Day Care EDC is 1200 - 1500. The childcare service at AIS is the only setting eligible for the UK MOD Overseas Nursery Authority (in lieu of 15/30 hours free childcare) and Tax Free Childcare. There is no wraparound childcare available at AIS outside the school hours of 0900-1500, or during school or public holidays.

### **Child and Youth Services (CYS), JFC Brunssum**

3. There are facilities to support children from age 0 – 18. The best thing to do is to arrange a visit! It is a fantastic facility with amazing resources. You will be able to discuss your specific needs with the staff there. If you believe you have, or will have, a childcare requirement, register at the earliest opportunity on the US Department of Defense (DoD) website [www.militarychildcare.com](http://www.militarychildcare.com). On their website, you can also see some detail about the CYS facility at Brunssum (search for 'USAG Benelux-Schinnen School Age Care'). You can also speak to the reception staff at CYS on +31 455263121. A similar facility is also available at Geilenkirchen Air Base (details for which are also on the [childcare.com](http://childcare.com) website). Each facility operates its own waiting list, using the same prioritisation.

4. All JFCBS personnel can access CYS nursery and school wrap-around childcare, Mon – Fri, 0700 – 1730. The CYS service is provided by the United States Department of Defence and is heavily subsidized. Their services are as follows:

- Child Development Center (CDC - ages 6 wks. – 5 years)
- School Age Center (SAC – grades Kindergarten – 5th grade)
- Middle School Teen Program (MST or YC – grades 6-12).

5. Place allocation is managed on a priority basis that is clearly defined on the [militarychildcare.com](http://militarychildcare.com) website; it is a centrally-managed policy to ensure that those who need childcare are able to access it. There is no distinction between nationality. Applications are held on an automated and centrally-controlled waiting list and managed strictly in accordance with the category of the family.

6. The highest priority is awarded to Wounded Veterans and employees of CYC; after that, single military parents, serving military couples (i.e both parents are serving military personnel), or families with one military parent and a working civilian spouse are given the highest priority (Categories 1A – 1B.5) and cannot be supplanted. If one parent is not working, the chance of securing a place is reduced and the childcare placing can be removed - 'supplanted' - and given to a family of higher priority.

7. For school wrap-around childcare, children are collected from CYS Brunssum in the morning and taken to AIS, then returned to CYS upon completion of school at AIS. This service is not offered for other schools.
8. Camps are run throughout summer and during term breaks. Children in receipt of CYS childcare (full time, part time) are prioritised for Summer/half-term camps, but if there is capacity (the camps were not filled in summer 2021, for example), application for spaces are accepted from anyone registered on the [militarychildcare.com](http://militarychildcare.com) website – again, on a priority basis.
9. For children/youth grades 6 and up, there is a well-equipped Youth Drop-in Centre at CYS. Their after-school program is free of charge, but the child/youth will need to be registered with CYS (through [militarychildcare.com](http://militarychildcare.com)) to use the facility. CYS also organises free activities for anyone to take part in and these are publicised on the Brunssum CYS Facebook page.
10. For a number of reasons (not COVID-related) CYS Brunssum has a staffing challenge that they are working hard to address. Until this is resolved, they are currently only able to operate a limited number of childcare classrooms. Understandably, this has a substantial impact on the amount of children they are able to look after and so the prioritisation system is a very important tool for them. You should bear in mind that unless both parents are working, or can demonstrate that they are actively trying to find work, securing and retaining a place for your child is difficult – but not impossible. The first thing to do is register!

### **Local Dutch Childcare Services**

11. Local childcare services can be used, though a local BSN (like a social security number) is required. The process to obtain a BSN is covered elsewhere and the EJSU staff can assist in explaining the process. Even with a BSN, some childcare service providers require additional documentation that can be difficult to obtain. Some providers will only offer a fixed price service for all day every day regardless of whether your child actually attends or not; others will work with you to provide the hours and days that you need. In that respect, it is very similar to the UK.
12. Dutch Childcare services are substantially more expensive than the UK. Infants and children under 3 will need to use a local childcare provider if they are not able to access the CYS Child Development Centre. Local childcare is not eligible for UK Government Tax-Free Childcare (HMRC are looking at this) or 15/30 Hours Free Childcare subsidies. Prices range from €69-90 daily (€1380-1780 monthly). A list of local childcare providers is available from the UK NSE and the Host Nation Liaison Officer, Petra Habets, is there to assist you to understand the local processes as well as support with any language challenges.
13. We are not aware of any local childcare providers that provide transportation for wrap around school care for those children at AIS. We are still developing our understanding of local childcare services for school children during school holidays (i.e. camps).

## Summary

14. There are a range of childcare services available for babies and infants up to school age, though these vary considerably in cost and available subsidies. However, school wrap-around (outside 0900-1500) and school holiday childcare for school age children is a challenge for those unable to secure an assured place at CYS for their child(ren).

## Points of Contact

Community Liaison Officers: +31 (0)45 526 2615

Hive: +31 (0)45 526 2891

Host Nation Liaison Officer: +31 (0)45 526 2850

Child and Youth Services (Reception): +31 (0)45 526 3121

British Section (Reception), AFNORTH International School: +31 (0)45 524 8241

BSN Application Appointments:

- Phone: +31 (0)45 527 8555
- Address: Gemeente Brunssum (Town Hall), Lindeplein 1, 6444 AT Brunssum

## Attachments:

CYS Prioritisation

Overseas Nursery Authority

Tax Free Childcare for MOD Settings

Nursery Providers in Brunssum Area

## Links

Brunssum CYS: <https://militarychildcare.com> (when prompted to 'search for care by location', enter 'Brunssum')

British Section, AIS: <https://afnorth-is.com/about-us/>