

German daycares promoting sexual exploration rooms to children

By Jonathan Bradley
Aug 23, 2023



Daycare
Courtesy CBC

Daycare centres in Germany are under fire for promoting the use of sexual exploration rooms where young children are encouraged to touch themselves.

Die Welt reported Tuesday the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia has at least two daycares which are entertaining the idea of safe spaces where young children can retreat to masturbate. One daycare in Kerpen said children can "discover and satisfy themselves physically."

The daycare said it offers children freedom to try out childish sexuality, insisting masturbation is normal and that it considers allowing it on its premises to be of significant importance.

Another daycare in Rheinberg said doctor games are prepared in adjoining rooms for children to explore the bodies of others. The daycare encouraged children to pick those who they wish to explore and urge them to be cautious, telling them no objects can be put into body cavities.

Similar practices were being encouraged at Awo-Kita Kindergarten in Hanover, which came to light after an email was sent to parents.

Awo-Kita said it intended to introduce doctor games where children can pet and examine themselves and others.

"All children, especially preschoolers, are aware of the places in the facility where nudity and body exploration can take place," it said.

"Each child decides for themselves whether and with whom they want to play physical and sexual games."

It said children can pet and examine each other as much as is comfortable for themselves and others.

The concept appeared to be supported by German sexuality and partnerships professional association Pro Familia, which published recommendations encouraging the practice.

Awo-Kita cancelled the project after a Lower Saxony Ministry of Education spokesperson said this idea "endangers the well-being of the child."

Its management company's CEO said the email to parents had not been approved by the head office.

North Rhine-Westphalia local governments do not appear to be fazed by the practice. When asked about it, its Ministry of Children said sexual behaviour by children could not be prevented and insisted it had no plans to contact the daycares within its remit to discuss the matter.

A British Columbia school teacher sent kindergarten students home with an assignment about masturbation in 2022, according to one of the student's parents.

READ MORE: BC teacher gives four-year-olds masturbation assignment

Alert Bay, BC, resident SG said she was shocked when her four-year-old daughter who attends T'lisalagi'lakw School told her about the assignment she had been sent home with.

"I read it and said 'we are absolutely not doing this,'" said SG.

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