It is worth bearing in mind that selecting a film based merely on its suitable FSK certificate may not be enough to make visiting the cinema an enjoyable experience. FSK age ratings are not recommendations for a certain age group or hallmarks of quality – and it would certainly be wrong to confuse them with pedagogical tips! For instance the film “The King’s Speech” (2010) received a FSK 0 certificate in Germany. This means that there are no restrictions on who may attend showings. Nevertheless, the storyline would only be appealing to children over eight.

Can I feel safe attending a 3D showing with my child? Yes! 3D digital is the 21st century’s cinema revolution, and is also doubtless a fantastic experience for children. Although 3D technology does prove tiring on the eyes, like working at a computer, it does not have any side-effects on the viewer’s health – including children. However, the 3D content may make the effects seem more exciting and suspenseful than in a 2D film. By the way: we have special children's 3D glasses for our small visitors.

Recommendations for cinema films
Our cinema has fixed time slots in which it shows films for children and youngsters. You can find out more about our programme in your local cinema. Our children’s magazine Kino-KidsMagazin also reviews children’s films. Reviews in daily newspapers can help in picking a film. There are plenty of useful sites online, too:

www.kinofenster.de The online portal for education in film is maintained by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, and VISION KINO provides extensive information on current and older cinema films. The site also recommends suitable ages.

www.fbw-filmbewertung.com Deutsche Film- und Medienbewertung recommends good films: the ratings organisation is independent, competent and up to date. Its ratings are as much an accolade as they are a recommendation.
FSK certificates / German movie ratings

Cinema is a magical experience: watching exciting stories projected on to a huge screen, accompanied by crystal-clear sound, is a different world compared with following a film on TV at home.

Please bear in mind that the principles underlying movie ratings in Germany are not necessarily comparable with those underlying movie ratings in other countries.

Which films are children allowed to watch?

Under law, films produced for children and adolescents — like all cinema films, cinema commercials, and films that are released on video or DVD — require a certificate rating them suitable for certain age groups. The legal basis is Section 14 (1) of the Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Places (JuSchG). The age rating certificates are not awarded by the cinema operator, and instead by Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle der Filmwirtschaft (FSK), an independent ratings organisation within the umbrella organisation Filmwirtschaft e.V. (SPIO). The German federal states cooperate to ensure that the FSK certificates are recognised by the government. The certificates are graded as follows: FSK 0, FSK 6, FSK 12, FSK 16, and FSK 18. The so-called parental guidance rule applies to the certificate FSK 12.

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What makes the parental guidance rule special?
The parental guidance rule (Section 11 (2) Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Places) allows parents to attend films in the company of their children aged over 6, although the films have received a FSK 12 certificate. This exception is intended to encourage entire families to visit the cinema, and to strengthen parental rights. However, the PG rule applies explicitly to primary carers only, and therefore to parents. It does not apply to grandparents, siblings or teaching staff. Parental authorisation is also insufficient. The parental guidance rule applies exclusively to FSK 12. The rule does not apply to any other certificates (FSK 0, 6, 16 or 18).

Time limits and compulsory accompaniment

Besides the FSK certificates, there are time limits that must be adhered to when children and adolescents visit the cinema. As cinema operators, we are required by law to check or ensure that the time limits are observed. Therefore, the following applies according to Section 11 Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Places:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 6</td>
<td>Unaccompanied at showings up to (see table for times). Afterwards only accompanied by a person with parental power. Persons with parental power are (foster) parents or adults with written authorisation from the parents. Similar applies for certificates FSK 16 and FSK 18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 11</td>
<td>Only accompanied by a person with parental power. Persons with parental power are (foster) parents or adults with written authorisation from the parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 13</td>
<td>Attendance is permitted in the company of a primary carer. Only parents or primary carers (in exceptional cases also legal guardians).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 to 15</td>
<td>Unaccompanied at showings up to (see table for times). Afterwards only accompanied by a person with parental power. Persons with parental power are (foster) parents or adults with written authorisation from the parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 17</td>
<td>Unaccompanied at showings up to (see table for times). Afterwards only accompanied by a person with parental power. Persons with parental power are (foster) parents or adults with written authorisation from the parents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information on the assignment of supervisory duties

The primary carers (parents) are responsible for selecting the person with parental powers (accompanying person). Not only must the person with parental powers be an adult, he/she must also be suitable to fulfil parental tasks (person of authority).

As cinema operators, we are required under Section 2 (1) JuSchG to check that parental powers have been assigned.

Proof of parental power must be provided by presenting the attached form. This assignment of parental power is also available to download from our homepage.

Agreement to Transfer Supervisory Powers in Accordance with the Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Places [JuSchG]

This assignment of parental powers (“Muttischein”) applies only to the cinema showing listed below, and cannot be transferred to third parties. The FSK certificates shall apply notwithstanding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film title</th>
<th>FSK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Date of birth: 

Last name, first name — primary carer (parent or legal guardian)

Date of birth: 

Last name, first name — child/adolescent

Date of birth: 

Last name, first name — adult companion as person with parental power

Date of birth: 

I grant my consent that my son/my daughter may be accompanied by the aforementioned custodian in accordance with Section 1 (1) no. 4 JuSchG. I am enclosing a copy of my official ID document.

Place, date: 

Signature of primary carer (parent)

I am willing to accept supervisory duties. I am enclosing a copy of my personal ID document:

Place, date: 

Signature of custodian (adult companion)

We confirm the accuracy of the information we have provided; we have read and understood the instructions contained in this information leaflet on how supervision must be provided.

More information in the cinema and online