

## Which films are suitable for children?



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.**

**i** Nobody knows your child better than you do! We therefore recommend that you ask yourself whether the film really suits how your child experiences the world before you attend a showing.

### 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.

## FAQ



### Does the cinema pick the FSK certificate?

No, the age rating is issued by FSK, a state-approved institution that acts as a central board of film certification. As cinema operators, we are obliged to guarantee compliance with the FSK certificates.

### Does FSK also issue certificates for advertising and trailers?

Yes, the commercials and trailers shown before the main feature have the same FSK certificate as the film itself.

### What happens if the film is certificate 12, the child is 10, but is accompanied by his or her 19-year-old sister? Is this child allowed to attend the showing?

No, the child cannot be admitted. In this case the PG certificate might apply, but the accompanying person is not the child's parent and therefore not a primary carer. Neither grandparents, neighbours nor adult siblings can be primary carers in this respect.

### What is the difference between a primary carer and a custodian?

Only parents can be primary carers. Custodians are those aged over 18 who for a certain period (to visit the cinema) are entrusted by the parents with care of the minor (e.g. older siblings, relations).

### When is it necessary to be accompanied by a custodian?

For instance if a 16-year-old wishes to attend a cinema showing (certificate 16) that does not end until after midnight. In this case the adolescent may only attend the showing in the company of a parent (primary carer) or a custodian in possession of specific permission from the parent (parental permission slip aka "Muttschein"). In accordance with the Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Places [JuSchG], the transfer of custody applies only to this specific period.

### How is it possible to prove that parental power has been granted?

The proof that supervisory rights have been granted can be provided by presenting the attached form (parental permission slip aka "Muttschein"). You can also download a copy of the form from our homepage.

# German movie ratings

Tips & Information for parents and youngsters when visiting the cinema



## 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.



### What makes the parental guidance rule special?

The parental guidance rule (Section 11 (2) Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Spaces) 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).**

## Law on the Protection of Youth in Public Places



### 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:

Age	FSK 0 freigegeben	FSK 6 freigegeben	FSK 12 freigegeben	FSK 16 freigegeben	FSK 18 freigegeben
up to 6					
6 to 11		until 8 pm			
12 to 13		until 8 pm			
14 to 15		until 10 pm			
16 to 17		until midnight			

- **Unaccompanied at showings up to** (see table for times). Afterwards only accompanied by a person with parental power. Persons with parental power are
  - a. (foster) parents or
  - b. adults with written authorization from the parents (see parental permission slip aka "Muttschein").
- **Attendance is permitted in the company of a primary carer.** Only parents are primary carers (in exceptional cases also legal guardians).
- **Only accompanied by a person with parental power.** Persons with parental power are
  - a. (foster) parents or
  - b. adults with written authorization from the parents (see parental permission slip aka "Muttschein").
- **Unfortunately not allowed to attend the showing.**

**i** 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. (parental permission slip aka "Muttschein")

**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.

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

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

..... Film title ..... FSK .....

..... Date ..... Start and end of the showing .....

..... Last name, first name – **primary carer** (parent or legal guardian) .....

..... Telephone (during the cinema showing) .....

..... Street, house number ..... Post code, town .....

..... Last name, first name – **child/adolescent** .....

..... Date of birth .....

..... Street, house number ..... Post code, town .....

..... Last name, first name – **adult companion as person with parental power** .....

..... Date of birth .....

..... Street, house number ..... Post code, town .....

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.