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Koehler Group Corporate Daycare Center Gets Building Permit

- **Daycare center will offer 100 spots for children of employees and public daycare spots in the future.**
- **Konzept-e will be in charge of the new corporate daycare center, which will be located right next to Koehler's premises in Oberkirch.**
- **With the building permit, construction work is now scheduled to start in the coming year.**

Oberkirch, Germany, 11/26/2024 – In collaboration with the town of Oberkirch, the Koehler Group is building a daycare center next to Koehler's premises in Oberkirch. In order to ensure that everyone can benefit from a healthy work–life balance, the company will be offering 100 new spots both for children of employees and public spots. The company has had the building permit required for the new two-floor building since the end of October, and has since had the opportunity to present renders of the planned kindergarten at a town council meeting. With all this in place, the daycare center is expected to be completed and ready for use during the 2025/2026 kindergarten year.

Daycare center to be located next to Koehler headquarters in Oberkirch

As mentioned already, the Koehler Group is interested in making sure that everyone can enjoy a healthy work–life balance with its two-story corporate daycare center, and the company's plans in this area continue to take concrete shape since the corresponding building permit was issued. The new building is set to be located right next to the administration building at the family company's headquarters in Oberkirch, with construction work to start at the beginning of next year. In fact, initial preparations are slated to be carried out in the coming weeks in the area directly bordering the parking lot behind the administration building.

The new daycare center is additionally set to be incorporated into the plans that the town of Oberkirch has for its needs, which is why the aforementioned town council public meeting on November 25, 2024 was the perfect opportunity to present the corresponding building plans and renders. Gregor Bühler, Mayor of Oberkirch, said the following at the public meeting: "Thanks to the fact that the Koehler Group and the town of Oberkirch have always worked together in a manner characterized by trust, we're now successfully taking another important step towards ensuring that families in Oberkirch have living and working conditions that improve their well-being. In addition to the spots for children of employees, 40 percent of the daycare center spots will be available as public spots, and that really is an enormous achievement when it comes to daycare availability at Oberkirch."

As expected, the building plans and renders turned out to be the perfect way to present the new daycare center to the committee and the public. The center will offer spots for toddlers who are one to three years

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old, as well as spots for older children, with the total available spots coming in at a maximum of 100 children split across six groups. Also worth mentioning is the fact that the Koehler Group has found an extremely experienced and dependable partner for running the daycare center in the form of “Konzept-e Group”, which has already worked together with the Koehler Group on the latter’s vacation childcare program for Koehler employees in the past few years. Rates will be the same for all families and identical to those charged by the town of Oberkirch, plus a standard meal/snack fee. The daycare center should be in operation during the 2025/2026 kindergarten year, and will be offering “extended hours” and “all-day” options (“verlängerte Öffnungszeiten” and “Ganztagesbetreuung,” as they are called in German). In order to properly accommodate parents’ working hours and truly provide for a good work–life balance, the center will be open from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and will not be closed more than 12 days per year.

The public meeting also served another useful purpose: choosing a name for the new daycare center. The decision was made in favor of “Gretel-Furler-Kita”, in memory of Gretel Furler, wife of Hans Furler, who was a remarkable woman who, through her love and care for her family and her close ties to her homeland and the Koehler family business memory remains. Frank Lendowski, CFO of the Koehler Group, is certain: “With the new Gretel Furler daycare center, we are offering our employees a great advantage in order to better combine family and work.”



Image: Exterior views of the Koehler Group's new company daycare center

Source: Architekten Bilger Fellmeth

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*Figure: The Koehler Group's company daycare center will offer 100 places in the future.
Source: Architekten Bilger Fellmeth*



2030 Sustainability Strategy

By building the new corporate daycare center, the Koehler Group is helping achieve sustainable development goals in the area of "People, the Key to Success."

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About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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