

## On-Site Daycare at the Steelworks in Riesa (April 1951)

### Abstract

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In the early 1950s, the GDR began expanding daycare in factories and enterprises in an attempt to raise female employment as a whole but also to train unskilled female laborers to meet the demand for specialized workers in East German industry. The number of daycare facilities for children aged three and younger rose from 61 in 1950 to 307 in 1955, bringing the number of individual daycare slots from around 1,050 in 1950 to 12,600 in 1955. The number of kindergartens for three- to six-year-olds (excluding seasonal facilities) also increased, from approximately 4,300 in 1949 to over 6,900 in 1955. As a result of the expanded daycare network, the share of women in the workforce climbed to 44 percent in the mid-1950s. The facility shown here was set up in the nationally-owned Riesa steelworks, which went on to become one of the most important steel manufacturers in the GDR.

### Source

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Source: Breakfast in the company kindergarten at the Riesa steel mill. Photo: Herbert Hensky. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30029046. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at [requests@artres.com](mailto:requests@artres.com) (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at [kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de](mailto:kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de) (for all other countries).

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Recommended Citation: On-Site Daycare at the Steelworks in Riesa (April 1951), published in:

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German History in Documents and Images,

<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/occupation-and-the-emergence-of-two-states-1945-1961/ghdi:image-2596> [May 04, 2024].