

Münster's Kita-Navigator Algorithm — A Cautionary Case After Sibling-Matching Failures Cost 144 Children Their Daycare Places

AI in Education · Good practice · Germany

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Münster's 2022 Gale-Shapley update to its Kita-Navigator daycare-allocation software could not natively match sibling pairs, and a configuration error mismatched requested and offered hours. The city suspended it in Feb. 2023 after 144 already-accepted children lost their places.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	1/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-20

City of Münster (Amt für Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien), with software vendor ITK — accessed 2026-08-20

AlgorithmWatch — In Germany, a daycare allocation algorithm is separating siblings — accessed 2026-08-20

Stadt Münster — Stadt Münster setzt Kita-Navigator aus (official press release) — accessed 2026-08-20

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