



UDE/UME holiday programme for 2026

In 2026, the University of Duisburg-Essen is once again offering a holiday programme full of variety for children aged between 6 and 14. The offer is for children whose parents work or study at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) or University Medicine Essen (UME).

During the first two weeks of the summer holidays, an age-appropriate programme with exciting themed weeks for kids and teens awaits the participants. For the remaining weeks, we have designed a programme in which the kids and teens go on quests, play, discover and get creative together. Below you will find the 2026 UDE/UME holiday childcare programme – full of fun, inspiration and variety for all young adventurers!

2026 Easter holiday programme:

30 March–2 April 2026, no programme on 3 April (Good Friday)



Art workshop – colours, shapes, imagination!

This creative week is all about getting the paintbrushes moving and our hands dirty to create our own works of art. The children will get right into the colourful world of art and try out different techniques, whether with brushes, sponges or their fingers. Together, they will create collages, sculptures made from everyday materials and a large group work of art. A mini exhibition for parents, a lively outdoor painting session and fascinating printing experiments will make this week a real art adventure.

Excursion: Tuesday, 31 March, Red Dot Design Museum, including the 'Design im Blick' (focus on design) workshop

7–10 April 2026, no programme on 6 April (Easter Monday)

Science workshop – research, amazement and fun!

This is the place for fiddling around, fascination and fact-finding. The children will step into the role of young researchers and discover the exciting sides of science. They will make volcanoes erupt, investigate the colours of the rainbow and experiment with electrifying balloons. Water hikes, air-pressure experiments and a mini science fair will have the children's eyes lighting up. As our grand finale, we will stage a water-rocket race – science with a wow factor!

Excursions: Tuesday, 8 April: hands-on mathematics museum and Wednesday, 9 April: workshop at the minerals museum

2026 summer holiday programme:

20–24 July 2026



Kids: Fantastic adventures – with legendary creativity!

In this magical week, we delve into the world of fables, magic and fantasy! The children become fairy-tale heroes and heroines, craft fantastical creatures and make up their own stories. From a crafts workshop to role-playing to a treasure hunt, every day is full of adventure. A magical scavenger hunt and Fantasy Olympics will make this an unforgettable week.

Excursions: The destinations are yet to be determined. They may include a visit to the theatre or a trip to the observatory or to Kids Country in Essen.

Teens: Escape room adventure – puzzles, suspense and team spirit!

This week is all about brain teasers, teamwork and creativity. The children will create their own escape room, think up a suspenseful story and design challenging tasks and riddles. Using a variety of materials, they will build a real escape room that their parents can try out on Friday! A treasure hunt, puzzle stations and logic games will add extra excitement and variety.

Excursions: Tuesday, 21 July: Ruhr Abenteuer geocaching and Thursday, 23 July: scavenger hunt at the Zollverein coal mine

27–31 July 2026

Kids: Viking adventure – bravery on the high seas!

Ahoy! This week, the children set sail and discover the fascinating world of the Vikings. They will build ships, paint rune stones and craft jewellery – just like real Norse people. Action-packed games, a Viking scavenger hunt and a celebratory Viking festival with music and fun will make this week a real highlight.

Excursions: Tuesday, 28 July: 'Hunt for the watchful rooster' scavenger hunt and Thursday, 30 July: Ruhr Museum including the 'Unearthed! Tale(s) from the archaeological archives' tour

Teens: Photo and art workshop – discovering creative perspectives!

This week, the teens will design their very own photo projects and combine photography with art. The projects include making frames, putting together collages and combining photos with drawings or stickers to create unique works of art. Going on a photo scavenger hunt and putting together a large-scale photo mosaic as a team will offer plenty of opportunities to get the creative juices flowing. To finish the week with a bang, the artwork will be presented in a mini exhibition.

Excursions: Tuesday, 28 July: LWL Museum Hannover Colliery including a light-art workshop and Thursday, 30 July: cubus kunsthalle art space in Duisburg

3–7 August 2026

Sports adventures – games, fun and action!

Sports week is all about exercise, play and loads of fun. In cooperation with the University of Duisburg-Essen's sport service, the children can try out exciting opportunities like a Krav Maga course and a trampoline session. We will also be staging an excitement-packed Team Olympics event, which will involve not only running around and playing but also solving riddles and having plenty of fun. From relays to quizzes to team competitions, there will never be a dull moment this week!

Excursions: Tuesday, 4 August: Krav Maga and Thursday, 6 August: trampoline course

10–14 August 2026

Environment adventure – discovering and protecting nature!

This week is all about nature and sustainability. The children will encounter plants and animals in our nature bingo game, and a trash-gathering contest will be an impressive way to discover the vital importance of environmental protection. Creative upcycling projects – such as crafting pencil cups or vases out of old tins, bottles and cartons – will be fun ways to learn about using materials sustainably. Highlights this week also include making seed bombs and building insect hotels.

Excursions: Tuesday, 11 August: Gruga Park with a tour of the bee house and Thursday, 13 August: LWL Museum Henrichshütte Ironworks and the 'Ironworks Safari' and 'Green Ironworks' tours

17–21 August 2026

Water worlds and adventure – discover the element!

Summer, sun, water – this is the week for splashing, exploring and amazement. The children will discover the secrets of water with exciting experiments and cool games. Water fights, Water Olympics, building model boats and creating water art are great ways to have fun while keeping cool. In the process, the children will learn how important water is for all of us – a refreshing blend of learning and enjoyment!

Excursions: Tuesday, 18 August: Aquarius Water Museum with an educational element and Thursday, 20 August: building a raft in Duisburg Wedau

24–28 August 2026

Survival adventure – roughing it outdoors!

This week is full of adventure and challenges! Through play, the children will learn important survival techniques – from simple knots to water purification to outdoor orientation. They can also try their hand at whittling. Survival Olympics and a suspenseful scavenger hunt will make for thrills and lots of team spirit. The name of the game is boldness, teamwork and a thirst for adventure!

Excursions: Tuesday, 25 August: Neoliet climbing centre in Essen and Thursday, 27 August: Duisburger Wald woods

31 August–1 September 2026

End-of-break days – group games and fun!

As the break winds down, the children can look forward to a programme full of variety with group games and activities. Whether it's James Bond dodgeball, capture the flag or other team games, these days are all about fun, exercise and ending the holidays on a lively note.

2026 autumn holiday programme:**19–23 October 2026****Workshop/studio – discover, design, experiment!**

During this inspiring week, the children can try out plenty of new things and discover hidden talents. Young researchers can perform experiments while creative minds can make mosaics out of CDs and paint or design their own T-shirts with printing plates. They can also give tie-dyeing a try. To finish off the week, Sports and Creativity Olympics offer something for everyone.

Excursions: The excursions are yet to be determined. Options include the sports museum in Dortmund and an art workshop.

26–30 October 2026**Haunted house adventure – thrills, chills and plenty of fun!**

This spectacularly spooky week is all about Halloween. The children will carve pumpkins, make masks and create ghostly decorations. Scary stories and a spine-tingling scavenger hunt are sure to be a hit. With a creepy funhouse obstacle course and the blowout Halloween party as the grand finale, thrills and lots of laughs are guaranteed – the perfect mix of creativity, excitement and spooky autumn fun.

Excursions: The excursions are yet to be determined. Options include black-light miniature golf and a trip to the cinema.