



**Children in the Czech Republic have many options how to take part in different out-of-school activities and interest groups. From a very early age they can attend so-called „kroužky“, or after-school activities, focused on sports, music, arts, languages, and many more fields, skills, and interests. The offer of after-school activities is especially broad in larger cities and caters for changing needs and modern ways of spending free time. After-school activities are open for children of both preschool and primary school age. They can also visit youth community centres („dům dětí a mládeže“), various non-profit organisations (for example, [www.rkulitka.cz](http://www.rkulitka.cz)), or commercial courses and centres. If a child displays an unusual talent, he/she can take advantage of those activities on offer and prepare for a future professional career in the field.**

## After-school Activities in Preschool

After-school activities in preschool usually take place in the afternoon hours and children remain in the same building. They are often conducted by the preschool teachers, sometime external tutors are employed. The themes are usually chosen in order to advance physical and psychological development of children, they may include basic sports, elementary foreign language skills (or, on the contrary, Czech language for foreigners), dance, games,

or the basics musical instruments and singing. Ceramics is also a very popular course for this age group. Children can also attend these after-school activities outside of preschool, parents usually choose those located close to home. They are conducted in a playful, fun way, there is no pressure on performance, the important thing is that children enjoy the activities and learn to enjoy spending their free time actively. Some after-school activities are free, others are paid, but usually they are not very expensive.

## „Školní družina“ (After-school Program)

After-school program, or „družina“, is one of basic ways that children in the Czech Republic traditionally spend time after school in grades 1-5 of elementary school. After their classes end, children remain at school, moving to another building/ part of the school building where the after-school program is located. Here they meet with other children of similar age. The purpose of after-school program is mainly to provide care for smaller children at the time when their parents are usually still at work - before the classes (starting no sooner than 6 AM) or after (ending at 5 PM at the latest). Schools provide activities, toys, games and other ways of making the time spent there fun and interesting. Some activities are free, some can be paid, but usually the sums are not very large.





### „Základní umělecká škola“ (Elementary Arts School)

The so-called „Elementary Arts Schools“ have a long tradition in the Czech Republic. These schools that can be attended by children from the age of 5 as well as adult students provide the basic education in artistic fields - music, visual and fine arts, dance, drama and literature, and more. You can find Základní umělecká škola, or ZUŠ, in most larger towns and cities, there are 36 of them in Prague alone. Children attend them after school, in the afternoon hours.

### Camps and Summer Day Camps

During the summer holidays children can go away on camps (camp = „tábor“), that is, organized stays in nature. They take place in different places all around the Czech Republic. Children go away without their parents, sleep in huts or tents, sometimes also in buildings. Food is also provided. Under the supervision of experienced instructors they do sports, play games, go on trips and walks, learn new skills and make new friends. There are also many thematic camps and the selection is very broad, children can for example go on a science camp, sports camp, pirate camp, foreign language camp, camp by the sea, horseriding camp, and so on. Another type of camp is a so-called Summer Day Camp, or „příměstský tábor“, which translates as a „city camp“. Children only

spend the day there but sleep at home, they get dropped off in the morning and picked up in the evening by their parents or guardians. Summer day camps can be found all around the country, and they are also offered by our Rodinný klub Ulitka at Prague 3 ([www.rkulitka.cz/tabory](http://www.rkulitka.cz/tabory)).

### I don't know how to choose the right free-time activity, i can't speak Czech, I need help!

Do not hesitate to contact us, we will help you with the selection, enrolling your child, or provide translation and interpretation services, all free of charge!

### Contacts

**Centrum pro integraci cizinců** | [www.cicpraha.org](http://www.cicpraha.org)

**Meta, o.p.s.** | [www.meta-ops.cz](http://www.meta-ops.cz)

**InBáze, z.s.** | [www.inbaze.cz](http://www.inbaze.cz)

[www.metropolevsech.eu](http://www.metropolevsech.eu)

[www.rodinaprorodiny.cz](http://www.rodinaprorodiny.cz)

