

Kilian Hermann (*1993) is a PhD student at the Faculty of Mathematics and head of a practice group. He lives in Dortmund with his partner and daughter Zoi (*2017).



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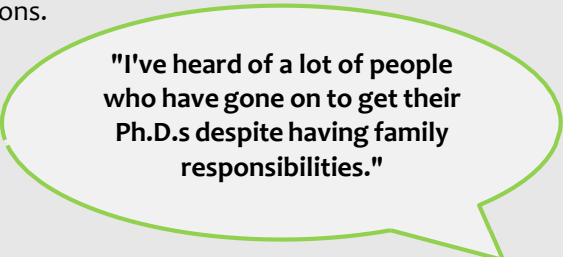
The active, caring father

I got in touch with Kilian Hermann through the parents' café at the TU Dortmund. There I arranged an interview appointment, to which the father appeared together with his daughter. He seems relaxed and Zoi also seems to be in a good mood on this warm day. Both sit down and share a sip of water from a cup, with Zoi spilling half of it. Killian Hermann takes it with humor and quickly dries his little daughter again before we start the interview.

With the master thesis into parental leave

Kilian Hermann studied mathematics, completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at TU Dortmund University, and since October 2018 has been working on his doctorate in of the Faculty of Mathematics. His daughter Zoi was born in the final phase of his master's studies. Kilian Hermann is of the opinion that the TU Dortmund University as an employer offers good framework conditions for the compatibility of family and career.

The young family is currently in the midst of preparations for their move into a larger apartment, the father of the family says at the beginning of the interview. interviews. So it doesn't hurt if now at home a little peace and quiet for packing the moving cartons.



"I've heard of a lot of people who have gone on to get their Ph.D.s despite having family responsibilities."

"When Zoi was born, I was in the final exam preparations for my master's degree and was about to start my master's thesis. At the time, my partner was also studying for her master's degree at TU Dortmund. She will also soon be finished with her master's thesis," he explains about the situation in which

which the couple was at the time of the birth of their daughter.

With the completion of the last exam and before the start of the master thesis, Kilian Hermann went on parental leave. During this time he already led a exercise group, which he continued to supervise thereafter. His partner had also taken parental leave, as students, they were both able to divide this phase

Childcare in everyday university life

The father reports about his everyday life with a child during his studies: "Up to now, we have always treated Zoi ourselves. We were very free to divide up the times during which we learned. Between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. we got up together with the little one. Then it always took us a little while to get going with all the bags. We drove to the university together to study.

I was often with Zoi in the parent-child room in the library, because there you met a lot of nice parents.

and it didn't bother anyone when Zoi grumbled. Most of the time I spent two hours Afterwards, I took the little girl to the cafeteria for dinner. In the evening I babysat Zoi while my friend went to the gym, and still went to my gym myself afterwards."

Search for a childcare place

Zoi is now almost ten months old and Kilian Hermann has successfully completed his master's degree.

"You just have to organize everything better, the time allocation has changed and is determined more by the child."

"In October 2018, I will start my Ph. at the TU Dortmund University and my girlfriend will start her traineeship after the summer vacations," he reports. Zoi will then go to all-day care because both parents will be working full time. "The grandparents all live three to six hours away, so they can only come over on weekends now and then. Unfortunately, there's more demand than supply when it comes to childcare places.

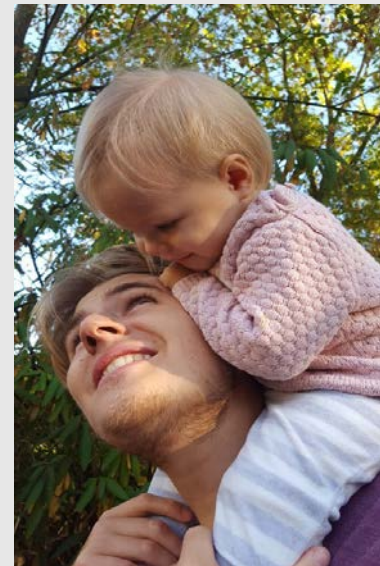
That's why we'll take what we can get," he says about the future care situation. Kilian Hermann grew up in a large family with five siblings and says of his own becoming a father: "For me, there was never any question of remaining childless in old age.

**Enjoys spending time with his daughter:
Killian Hermann with
Zoi.**

natural that I would become a father at some point." When asked what type of father he would describe himself as, he replies, "I'm a father who likes to take care of things a lot. I think I'm a very active father and I like to play with my daughter."

Establish and maintain contacts

He has the most contact with other parents at the TU Dortmund parents' café, says Kilian Hermann. "In the preparatory courses, there was a lot of contact with other parents, but that has decreased with the Time lost again. My girlfriend still meets with parents from a follow-up course from time to time. I myself have a friend



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from the past, who also happened to be a father. I meet him more often with the children. Then, of course, we talk a lot about our experiences as fathers, but also about our studies and private things, just like before." For the young father The conversation with other parents is important in order to exchange experiences and tips and to talk about studying and working with children.

"Most of the time, I studied for two hours and then went to the dining hall with the little one to eat."

When asked if Zoi's birth has changed his priorities in life, he answers: "Of course, Zoi's birth has changed some things in my life, but I don't have the feeling that I have to do without anything or that I can no longer do something that I enjoyed doing before. You just have to organize everything better, your time management has changed and is determined more by the child." Kilian Hermann does not believe that becoming a father will have a negative impact on his professional career. "I don't plan my professional career, but prefer to go step by step and see what comes up.

Kilian Hermann on vacation with his daughter Zoi.

In other fields, working full time with a child might be more difficult, but here at TU Dortmund it's quite compatible."

Promotion with family

"I have heard of many people who have completed their doctorate despite family responsibilities. You are very independent and the working hours are flexible. It's just a matter of fulfilling your workload in the end," he says confidently. Kilian Hermann sees the next few years with his daughter and his doctorate as a time for mann sees it as a challenge, but he is confident that it is a challenge that can be mastered well.

The interview
26.07.2018

led Michelle Reit on



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