

Helsinki

Upcoming pupil's A1 language selection



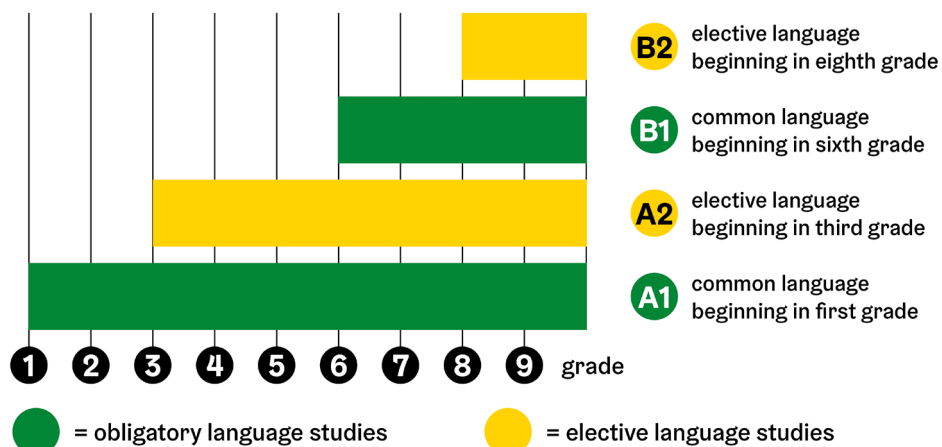
Versatile language skills are a gift to a child

Studies have shown that studying different languages has many benefits. Versatile language skills open new doors in leisure time, studies and working life alike and help us to understand different cultures and people.

Children's lack of prejudice, curiosity and desire to experiment support the learning of a new language, and a child can learn several languages at the same time.

Learning languages also develops a child's memory, perception, problem-solving skills and deductive abilities, and it improves the child's capacity to learn other languages later.

Language studies at comprehensive school



Language studies in Helsinki

Pupils begin studying their first foreign language in first grade. This language is called the A1 language. Over the course of their basic education, pupils can study up to four languages if they so choose. Studies in a second language common to all pupils start in sixth grade. This language is called the B1 language.

Pupils can start studying their first elective, or optional, language (A2 language) in third grade and their second one (B2 language) in eighth grade.

The schools of Helsinki have a diverse language selection: for their A1 language, pupils can choose Swedish, French, Spanish, North Sami, German, Russian, Estonian, Chinese or English. If the child's local school does not provide studies in the desired A1 language, they can apply for a place at a school that does.

How to select the A1 language?

You should carefully consider which first foreign language your child will study. The younger the child is, the easier it will be for them to learn a new language.

With that in mind, the first foreign language to study could very well be one that the child does not hear very much in their environment. Furthermore, as your child's guardian, you are not required to already know the languages that the child studies.

The guardian's role in language studies

As your child's guardian, your task is to support and encourage the child in their language studies. It is important that you show interest in the language that your child studies. You can support your child's language studies by reinforcing their home language(s). Linguistic development is supported by activities such as reading, talking and playful use of the language.

Find your local school's language selection

You can find the A1 language selection of your local school on their website under 'language programme'. Your child's local school is determined by your home address: edu.hel.fi/kouluhaku.



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