

# Welcome to preschool

## – Information on pre-primary education for guardians

### Your child goes to preschool next autumn

Preschool, also known as pre-primary education promotes and supports children's growth, development and learning. It enables a smooth transition from pre-primary education to basic education. A child's learning path starts from early childhood education and proceeds to pre-primary education and basic education. In pre-primary education, putting children's individual needs and ways of learning first are core values. The learning and teaching methods include playing, exercising and exploring new things together with other children and adults.

Pre-primary education is free of charge and takes place during the school year. An average day at preschool is four hours long. Daycare, or other type of early childhood education, usually continues alongside preschool as a supplement, if your family needs it. All children must attend pre-primary education in the year preceding the start of their compulsory education. Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring their child's participation.

### Preschool admissions via text message

Children are assigned a place in pre-primary education based on the preprimary education admission area of their own neighbourhood. You can check your district's daycare centres providing pre-primary education on the [Service Map at servicemap.hel.fi](https://www.hel.fi/service-map).

You will receive a text message about the place assigned for your child in pre-primary education on **7 January 2021**. We will send the message to the phone number that is the child's primary contact at the daycare centre. Only one guardian will receive the text message. Please check with the daycare centre that your phone number is up-to-date.

#### Here's what happens:

- 1) You will receive a text message offering a pre-primary education place for your child.
- 2) You can accept or decline the offer by following the instructions in the message.
- 3) Offer accepted: All good! You will receive an official decision in February.

If you decline the pre-primary education place assigned for your child, you will lose the offer, and can apply for a pre-primary education place at another daycare centre. You can submit an application for pre-primary education **7–22 January 2021** via the City of Helsinki e-services ([asinointi.hel.fi](https://asinointi.hel.fi)). Children are guaranteed a pre-primary education place in their own pre-primary education admission area. Transferring to another area or another daycare centre is possible only if they have free places available.

If you cannot apply online, daycare centres can provide you with a paper form, which you have to post or deliver to the daycare centre.

For private pre-primary education at a private daycare, please submit your application directly to the preferred private daycare centre. In Helsinki, Finnish-taught pre-primary education is offered at both municipal and private daycare centres.

The daycare centre has collected the information about the phone numbers on a basic information form, and the information collected on the form will be used for arranging pre-primary education. Privacy policy of early childhood education (in Finnish): <https://www.hel.fi/static/liitteet/kanslia/rekisteriselosteet/Kasko/Kasko-EU-Varhaiskasvatuksen-asiakasrekisteri.pdf>

### Dear future preschool pupil

You will start pre-primary education, or more familiarly, preschool next autumn.

In preschool, you will learn by playing, exploring and making arts and crafts. You will meet new friends and gain all kinds of new experiences. During the preschool year, you will also get a peek at what happens at school.

For further information about pre-primary education, go to [hel.fi/preschool](https://hel.fi/preschool).

**Welcome to pre-primary education!**



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