

# Welcome to early childhood education and care!

Starting early childhood education and care is a big change for the entire family, one that can elicit various emotions and expectations. The purpose of the child's introductory period is to give the child and their family the chance to get used to their new everyday life.

We recommend allowing your child to explore their new environment together with you during the first few days. The introduction with a guardian or some other adult close to the child can begin even before an ECEC decision enters into effect. The child can stay to practise without their guardian from the day on which the ECEC decision enters into effect onwards.

During the introductory period, the child is introduced to the staff, the other children in their group, the activities and the facilities. The introductory period also provides the staff with an opportunity to form a reciprocal relationship with the child and get to know them. During the introductory period, you will participate in activities, play, outdoor recreation, meals and naps with your child.

The staff will reserve a time for a starting discussion with you during or before the introductory period. The discussion involves going over necessary information about your child and your expectations and wishes in regard to starting early childhood education and care. You will receive information and you can ask questions about early childhood education and care, the group's activities and daily rhythm.

Early childhood education and care is a paid activity and the fee in accordance with the Act on Client Fees in Early Childhood Education and Care is determined based on income information. The family must submit an income statement within two weeks of their child starting in early childhood education and care. If no income statement is submitted, the maximum fee will be charged. Further information on fees is available on the [hel.fi](http://hel.fi) website, by email to [varhaiskasvatus.maksut@hel.fi](mailto:varhaiskasvatus.maksut@hel.fi) or by phone on 09 310 8600.

## Example of a child's introductory period

Week 1	1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day ECEC decision in effect	5th day ECEC decision in effect
Play 					
Outdoor recreation 					
Lunch 					
Nap 					
Snack 					



## A successful start to early childhood education and care is planned in collaboration with staff

**The child** is allowed to explore their new environment safely with their guardian or some other close adult. The child receives comfort and support from the staff. The child is made to feel welcome in the group and is allowed to keep an important toy or a picture of their loved ones with them.

### **The guardian**

- plans an introductory period corresponding to the child's needs in collaboration with the staff.
- is introduced to the children's group and the staff together with the child.
- communicates important matters concerning the child's health and safety to the staff.
- asks any questions that they might have regarding early childhood education and care and the group's activities.

### **The staff**

- hold a starting discussion with the guardian during or before the introductory period.
- get to know and build trust with the child and guardians.
- help the child join the group and process negative emotions.
- provide information on communication methods, cooperation and the group's activities.
- inform guardians of how the child's day goes in an agreed upon manner.
- are under an obligation of secrecy regarding the child's and their family's matters.