

Preschool is for your child

A brochure about the preschool curriculum



Skolverket

Preschool is here for your child

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You are important

You as the parent are the person that is closest to your child. Which is why your views are important in preschool. If you speak your mind, it is easier for the staff to give your child exactly what he/she needs.

In order to be involved and have some influence, you need to know how preschool is supposed to work.

Towards the same goal

The Swedish government and the Swedish parliament have established a curriculum which indicates the preschool's values and its goals and tasks.

If you read the Lpfö 98 curriculum you will learn about the expectations and demands you as a parent can have of the preschool.

Your municipal council may also have its own goals above and beyond those stated in the curriculum. Within the municipal council, the preschool is run by a board and an administration. Addresses and telephone numbers can be found in the telephone book and on their website.

All municipal preschools should follow the curriculum. It is also used to determine, for example, whether a parental cooperative will be permitted to start a separate preschool. The curriculum also provides guidelines for registered nurseries.

As a rule, preschool is attended by children between the ages of 1 to 5 years.



“Preschool should be fun, safe and educational for all of the children involved.”

From the preschool curriculum, Lpfö 98



Step by step along a lifelong learning path

Preschool activities should be characterised by education where care, supervision and teaching form a complete picture. This means that preschool is primarily here for the benefit of your child, even if it also makes it possible for you as a parent to work or study.

The curriculum states that play is an important part of a child's development and learning. Children should be given the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of different ways, both on their own and with others, for example through music and song, pictures, dance, drama, speech and writing. The child's speech development is an important subject in preschool. Preschool has a special responsibility to children with a mother tongue other than Swedish.

The basis of the work in preschools is democracy. Children should learn to respect the equal worth of all people. The staff should take the children's own opinions, interests and experiences into consideration when planning the daily tasks.

Preschools should also counteract traditional gender roles and place a great deal of importance on environmental issues.

Every preschool is unique

The curriculum should guarantee that all children receive an equally good pre-schooling, regardless of where they live. Since every preschool follows the same curriculum, they also have the same goals. On the other hand, their methods of working may differ.

The curriculum does not specify how the preschools should achieve their goals; this is something that the preschool staff decide, together with the parents and children. What works for one preschool might not work for another. No group of children is alike.

The municipal council is responsible for the preschool at a local level. This is who you contact in the event of any problems that neither you, the staff nor the preschool management team can solve yourselves.



“At preschool, children should meet adults that see each child’s potential.”

From the preschool curriculum, Lpfö 98



You can make a difference


The curriculum specifies that preschool work should occur in close and confident cooperation with the home. Which is why it is important that you communicate with the staff if you have any questions.

You could do this when you are collecting or dropping off your child.

This is when the staff can tell you what kind of day your child has had. You can also use this opportunity to tell them about something particular that happened that morning, or a particular family situation that the staff should perhaps know about. If time is short you could perhaps arrange an appointment for a discussion.

The staff should arrange development meetings, where you can discuss how your child feels, how he/she is developing and how the preschool is working. The curriculum can be used as a support tool in your discussions.

When planning the preschool work, the staff should take into consideration your opinion and that of the other parents. You should also be given the opportunity to be involved and evaluate the school.



Do you wish to read the entire curriculum?

It is available at all preschools. You can order your own copy from Fritzes publishing house, tel: 08 690 91 90. You can also find the curriculum on the Swedish National Agency for Education's website, under the heading: Laws and Regulations.

The website address is www.skolverket.se

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