

What is inclusive preparatory education?

Contents and implementation of preparatory education for comprehensive education

Preparatory education is intended for children aged 6–17 years who do not yet speak Finnish well enough to begin their basic education.

Preparatory education can take different forms. The child's age determines the type of instruction they will receive. The children receive 24–26 hours of teaching per week. The teaching is based on a separate curriculum for preparatory education for comprehensive education.

Pupils may attend preparatory education for a maximum of one calendar year. If the pupil can follow teaching in Finnish, their preparatory education may end sooner. The teacher will assess the child's skills.

Preparatory education for children aged 7–8

In the 1st and 2nd grade of comprehensive school, the pupils receive preparatory teaching in a normal Finnish-language group. This is called inclusive teaching. The pupils have 24 hours of preparatory teaching per week. The number of hours is greater than for those in normal 1st or 2nd grade.

Education plan

A personal education plan is created for every pupil in preparatory education. The education plan details the pupil's schooling history, strengths and challenges, personal goals, subjects to be studied and their numbers of hours, and arrangements related to the teaching. The education plan is created in collaboration between the pupil, their guardians and the teacher.

Finnish language

The main focus of the teaching is on Finnish language studies. The goal is to attain developing elementary language skills.

- The pupil is able to manage most commonly recurring language use situations.
- The pupil is able to name familiar things and recognises familiar words and phrases in spoken and written language.
- The pupil understands short instructions and familiar subjects from slow speech that is repeated if necessary.
- The pupil understands the topic of the teaching from the teacher's speech and the textbook with the help of images and clearly indicated key words.
- The pupil is able to write familiar words and short sentences.

Developing elementary language skills mean that the learner still needs plenty of support.

- The pupil needs plenty of models and support as well as provided vocabulary in order to produce a short oral or written text.
- The pupil still needs plenty of support in their native language in order to absorb new things.
- The pupil needs plenty of explaining and image support, as well as clear and slow speech, repetition and translation.

The preparatory education pupil studies all subjects studied in their grade with the rest of the group. They are also provided with opportunities to focus solely on the Finnish language. Over the course of the day, the pupil may have Finnish language lessons in a small group, either with their own or another teacher.

In addition to the actual teaching, the Finnish language is emphasised in all activities. The teacher verbalises everyday activities and interaction and uses as much image support and other aids as possible in all teaching.

Native language

As part of preparatory education, the pupil also receives teaching of their native language for two hours per week. The native language teaching does not necessarily take place at the same school as the other teaching.

Evaluation

When the preparatory education is about to end, the pupil's learning is evaluated for the education plan. The evaluation is oral. The evaluation focuses on how well the pupil has reached the goals set for them. Some of the school's own intermediate evaluation or self-evaluation tools may also be used.

The pupil will receive a certificate for participating in preparatory education. After the preparatory education, the pupil usually continues their education in the same teaching group.