

Welcome to pre-primary education

– Information on pre-primary education for guardians

Your child will start pre-primary education next autumn!

Children attend pre-primary education for one year before the beginning of their compulsory education. In pre-primary education, children learn new things by playing and exploring. They also practice good friendship skills and strengthen their self-esteem.

In Helsinki, Finnish- and Swedish-language pre-primary education is offered both as a municipal and private service. Pre-primary education is provided by daycare centres and schools. All children living in Helsinki will be assigned a municipal pre-primary education place primarily based on their pre-primary education admission area.

Pre-primary education admission area is determined according to the child's home address. Each pre-primary education admission area may have one or more locations that provide pre-primary education. The area may also include several schools. When assigning pre-primary education places, the local primary school where the child is most likely to continue after pre-primary education based on their home address, is taken into consideration. This allows children to get to know their future school friends already in pre-primary education. If your child needs special support or evening or round-the-clock care, they may be assigned a pre-primary education place in another admission area than the one based on the child's home address. You can check the school and daycare centres that offer pre-primary education in your area on the Service Map at palvelukartta.hel.fi/en. The pre-primary education admission areas are listed at hel.fi/preschool.

You can also apply for a pre-primary education place in another admission area, and get a place, if they have free places available. In pre-primary education arranged by private daycare centres, the admission area covers the entire city, which means that you can submit your application for private pre-primary education directly to the preferred private daycare centre.

Pre-primary education is free of charge and lasts four hours a day, mainly during school hours. In August 2022, pre-primary education begins on **11 August 2022**.

Applying for pre-primary education

If your child is not in municipal early childhood education, you should apply for a pre-primary education place. The application period takes place **1–15 March 2022** on the City of Helsinki E-services at asiointi.hel.fi. If you are unable to apply electronically, you can also submit a paper application by post to Service Guidance for Early Childhood Education, P.O. Box 51300, FI-00099 City of Helsinki. Submit your application to pre-primary education at a private daycare centre directly to the preferred private daycare centre.

If your child needs early childhood education to supplement pre-primary education, it will be provided at the same location as your child's pre-primary education. Further information hel.fi/preschool.

Dear future pre-primary education pupil,

You will start pre-primary education next autumn. In pre-primary education, you will learn by playing, exploring and making arts and crafts. You will make new friends and gain many kinds of new and fun experiences. During your pre-primary education year, you will also get a peek at what happens at school.

Further information on pre-primary education is available on the City of Helsinki website hel.fi/preschool.

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