

# Preparatory instruction for preschool children

Intensive Finnish instruction in preschool groups



## PREPARATORY INSTRUCTION FOR SIX-YEAR-OLDS IS DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF FINNISH.

The child's proficiency in Finnish may be sufficient when he or she is playing with other children and his or her language skills are satisfactory in everyday situations.

However, the child needs support in certain areas that are important in school education, such as

- processing key concepts
- extending the vocabulary
- strengthening self-expression
- understanding the instructions
- and other skills needed at school.

## THE GOAL OF THIS INSTRUCTION IS TO STRENGTHEN THE CHILD'S PROFICIENCY IN FINNISH

The goal of preparatory instruction is to strengthen the child's proficiency in Finnish so that learning in Finnish will be easier in the future. Children learn to play and interact together as equals in a multicultural environment.

It is important to maintain and develop the child's proficiency in his or her mother tongue and native culture. Support is provided to encourage the child to take classes in his or her mother tongue. It is important to maintain a close cooperation between home and school.

## ORGANIZATION - THE CHILDREN ARE PLACED IN SAME PRESCHOOL GROUPS WITH FINNISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN

In preparatory preschool instruction groups

- the language of instruction is Finnish
- Finnish-speaking children and preparatory instruction children are placed in the same preschool group
- learning skills are boosted
- the duration of preparatory instruction is one school year
- the Finnish language is being learned while playing and doing activities together
- there is a preschool teacher and a resource teacher who is specialized in multicultural issues
- an individual study plan is made for each child in cooperation with his or her parents
- the child is eligible for supplementary daycare (mornings and afternoons)
- preparatory instruction is free of charge.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Children with immigrant background, Finnish immigrant children returning to Finland, children living in bilingual families (except Finnish-Swedish bilinguals) and children adopted from foreign countries are eligible for preparatory instruction.