



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IN FINLAND



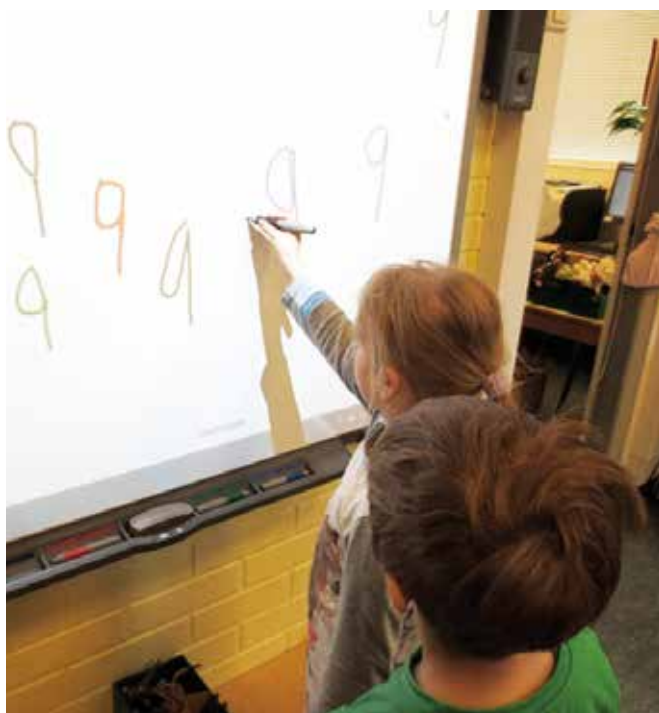
Finland differs from most OECD countries in the pace in which children enter academic life. Compulsory education starts the year a child turns seven; before that, most have attended daycare at the age of 0–5, and almost all have received pre-primary education at the age of six. Finnish early childhood education and care is based on the “educare” model, an integrated approach to care, education and teaching. Teaching at this level is intertwined with play in order to foster children’s overall development. The FinnWayLearning educational consortium offers its early childhood education expertise to anyone interested in providing children a first-class start in their educational path.





Daycare

Every child in Finland has a legal right to municipally provided daycare, which most commonly takes place in nursery schools. In addition to providing working parents with safe, reliable childcare, Finnish daycare is an institution with developmental and educational objectives. The most important of these is promoting the overall well-being of the child to ensure the best possible conditions for growth, learning and development.



Pre-Primary Education

Nearly all Finnish six-year-olds attend voluntary one-year pre-primary education, built around a national core curriculum. Due to four-hour school days, most children of this age are also enrolled in part-time daycare.

The general objective of pre-primary education is to assist children in the transition from home or daycare to school. It creates a foundation for literacy as well as for learning mathematics; other content areas addressed are ethics and religion (according to parental choice), environmental and natural studies, arts and culture, health, and physical and motor development. Rather than dividing these different areas into separate classes, education at this level is based on theme integration. Work in pre-primary education is based on playful activities appropriate to children's developmental level; this promotes their learning skills as well as their social and linguistic development.

Staff qualifications

Competent staff is an essential resource for early childhood education and care. In Finland, academic requirements for nursery school teachers are high; a qualified nursery school teacher must have at least a bachelor's degree in either education or social pedagogy, with an appropriate specialization. Of all the staff at a daycare or pre-school facility, a minimum of one in three must have this qualification; the rest are expected to have at least a vocational upper-secondary degree in the field of social welfare and healthcare.

What FinnWayLearning can offer

- study visits covering any aspect of Finnish early childhood education and care (prices start at €1000/day for a group of 10 or less)
- teacher and expert training (starting from 2500€/day)
- expert consultation

Please contact us to find out more!



Presentation of Finnish pre-school

<http://vimeo.com/67053191>

TURKU 

Contact details:

Anu Parantainen

Project Manager, M.A. City of Turku,
Education Division, Project Management Office
+358 44 9073 475, anu.parantainen@turku.fi

