

Pikku-Aino
Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centre
English Preschool Lilies

Members of staff

- Helinä Pykäläaho, Manager of Pikku-Aino ECE Centre
- Susanna Määttä, ECE Teacher
- Simon Wylie, ECE Teaching Assistant
- Katja Kaksonen, ECE Teacher

and

- Linda Lahti, ECE Teacher, Special Education
- Tanja Liedes, ECE Teaching Assistant

Pre-School education

- Became compulsory in Finland in January 2015
- Pre-school education in Oulu, Finland, is based on:
 - The Law of Early Childhood Education and Care
 - The National Core Curriculum of ECEC, 2018
 - The National Core Curriculum of Pre-School Education, 2018
 - Local Curricula; City of Oulu and Pikku-Aino ECE Centre

Preschool fees

- Compulsory and free-of-charge pre-school is arranged from 9am until 1pm
- Those children, whose parents are both working or studying full time, are also allocated full or part-time daycare
- If preschool is complemented with daycare services, a 60% of the full-time day care fee will be charged
- Full fee will be charged during all holiday times

Holidays

- Autumn Holiday 21-27.10.2019
- Independence Day 6.12.2019
- Christmas Holiday 21.12.2019-6.1.2020
- Spring Holiday 2-8.3.2020
- Easter 10-13.4.2020
- May Day 1.5.2020
- Ascension Day and following Friday 21-22.5.2020

Levels of Support

- general support
- intensified support
- special support

See more: <https://minedu.fi/en/support-for-learning-and-school-attendance>

Early childhood education law

- The new law was implemented 1.9.2018
- The law emphasises the child's right to early education
- Early childhood education and care (ECEC) refers to the systematic and goal-oriented service that consists of upbringing, education and care of children and it places special emphasis on pedagogy

Targets of ECEC

- 1) To promote Holistic Development
- 2) To support readiness for learning and equality in Education
- 3) To implement Holistic Pedagogical activities and enable positive learning experiences
- 4) To ensure a healthy, safe and learning-improving ECE environment
- 5) To respect everyone and to promote peer relationships
- 6) To ensure equal chances to participate
- 7) To recognize and implement an individual's need for support
- 8) To improve social and co-operation skills, to promote ethics and sustainability
- 9) To ensure that children can participate in decision making regarding themselves, at their own level of development
- 10) To co-operate with the child and guardians to ensure balanced development and well-being

Core curriculum: phenomena-based learning

Content orientations:

- Many ways of expressing oneself
 - Expressing ourselves verbally, but also with our bodies, as well as through music, arts, textiles and woodwork
- The rich world of language
 - Oral, reading, writing and interactive skills, written and spoken language
- Me and our Community
 - Ethical, religious, historical and social aspects
- Researching and working in my surroundings
 - Science, mathematical and technological knowledge
- Growing and Developing
 - PE, food, well-being, health, safety and consumption

The Updated National Core Curriculum centers on

- Transversal Competence and Holistic, Life-Long Learning
 - Cultural knowledge, interaction and expressing oneself
 - Caring for oneself and basic life skills
 - Multiliteracy, informational and technological knowledge
 - To participate and to make a difference
 - To think and to learn

Wilma

- The City of Oulu uses a web-based system called Wilma to stay in touch with parents
- You will use your Wilma account as long as your child is studying in a City of Oulu school
- You can add all of your children to the same account
- We will inform you of our current events through Wilma

- If your child is absent from preschool, you need to send a Wilma message to the teachers
- You will fill the Preschool Plan and apply to school via Wilma in January 2020.

Preschool plan

- According to the law, every child will have an individual Preschool Plan
- In Wilma, go to "Support" and you will find a Preschool Plan created by Susanna or Katja
- Fill in the PreSchool Plan with your child
- The Preschool Plan needs to be filled out before the autumn holiday
- Susanna and Katja will create a calendar in Wilma where you will book a 30 minute meeting
- The autumn meeting is between the parents and teacher
- In spring we will have a 15 minute evaluation meeting, in which your child will also participate (in English)

Preschool timetable

- 7.30am Preschool opens at OIS
- 8am Breakfast at Big Bite
- 8.30am Free play in the Lilies' classroom
- 9am Compulsory preschool begins, unless informed otherwise. **Please be on time.** Preschool activities.
- 9.45am Free play
- 10.15am Lunch
- 11am Storytime
- 11.30am Free play indoors and Outdoors
- 1pm Compulsory preschool time finishes
- 1.40pm Afternoon snack
- 2.10pm Free play
- 3.30pm Outdoors
- 5pm OIS doors close. Please collect your child on time.

Finnish as second language (FSL)

- According to the law, all children in Finnish schools study at least a small amount of Finnish
- In Lilies English is our priority, and we will have approximately one class of FSL per week
- In FSL we will play games, sing songs, do arts and crafts, physical education etc while learning Finnish words
- All children who have participated in ECE in the City of Oulu will have been made a Finnish as a Second Language Learning Plan (Pienten kielireppu). Please bring them to preschool so we can plan our FSL classes

Importance of our own mother tongue

- The level of a foreign language is always based on the level of your own mother tongue
- Remember to always strictly speak only your own language to your child
- Do not be tempted to speak Finnish, even though we live in Finland, or English, even if you want your child to go to an English language school

If I want to help my child's language to develop

- The best thing you can do for your child is read an evening story in your own language every evening (30 mins)
- Teach your child the alphabet and numbers in your own language
- Play games in which your child needs to develop their mother tongue, for instance Alias
- Play with language (e.g. rhymes, "I spy"), learn shapes, songs etc.

General Information

- By law preschoolers **must be accompanied to and from preschool by an adult** (over 18 years of age)
- It is recommendable to have indoors shoes with hard soles
- We have show & tell where children may bring a toy, game, book, craft item etc
- During winter we will ski and skate
 - you can start looking for equipment for your child
- Remember to have enough clothes at preschool:
 - gloves
 - beanies
 - outdoors trousers
 - waterproof trousers and jacket
 - rubber boots

Well-being

Children under 8 years old need to:

- Exercise more than 3 hours each day
- <https://www.liiku.fi/lapsille/liikuntasuosituksset/>
- Sleep more than 10 hours
- <https://www.mll.fi/vanhemmille/lapsen-kasvu-ja-kehitys/5-6-v/>
- Limit their Screen time to a maximum of 2 hours a day
- <https://www.mll.fi/vanhemmille/lapsen-kasvu-ja-kehitys/6-7-v/6-7-vuotias-ja-median-kaytto/>

About Screen time

- Technology does not kill, sitting does

Belgian recommendation

3-6-9-12

- Under 3-year olds: Do not need any technology
- Under 6-year olds: Should only use technology with an adult
- Under 9-year olds: Should not be allowed to use the Internet
- Under 12-year olds: Should not be allowed to use social media

Passive and active screen time

- Passive Screen Time
 - Child stares at the screen
 - Child plays a game someone else has created
 - Child is "passing the time"
- Active Screen Time
 - Child creates things: draws, takes photographs, makes music, makes videos
 - Child creates a game for him- or herself
 - Child gets a reward from his or her activity with an outcome

So what can your child do with technology?

- Use the programmes your computer has:
 - Draw with Paint
 - Take photographs and edit them
 - Make a PowerPoint presentation
 - Record and make music
 - Film and edit a home movie
 - (Play educationally-beneficial games (Ekapeli))

References

- The Law of ECEC
- <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2018/20180540>
- Ministry of Education and Culture
- <https://minedu.fi/en/early-childhood-education-and-care>
- Finnish Education in a Nutshell
- https://www.oph.fi/sites/default/files/documents/finnish_education_in_a_nutshell.pdf
- National Core Curriculum for Early Childhood Education and Care (2018)
- <https://www.oph.fi/fi/koulutus-ja-tutkinnot/varhaiskasvatussuunnitelmien-perusteet>
- National Core Curriculum for for Pre-Primary Education (2018)
- <https://www.oph.fi/fi/koulutus-ja-tutkinnot/esiopetuksen-opetussuunnitelmien-perusteet>
- Local Curricula; City of Oulu and Pikku-Aino ECE Centre
- https://www.ouka.fi/documents/112792/131455/Varhaiskasvatussuunnitelman+perusteet+2018+ja+Oulun+kaupungin+varhaiskasvatussuunnitelma_sa.pdf/dcd7ea83-a7f7-4597-92f8-f16206546b1b