

# Preschool class is there for your child

A BROCHURE ABOUT PRESCHOOL CLASS





## Your child is beginning at preschool class

This brochure provides you with information about preschool class and what the preschool is meant to do.

### **YOU ARE IMPORTANT**

You are the person closest to your child. So your opinions are important to preschool class. If you talk about what you think it is easier for the staff to give your child what he or she needs.

In order to take part and influence preschool class you need to know how it works.

## Aiming for the the same goal

Rules about preschool class are laid down partly in the Education Act and partly in the national curriculum.

The ninth chapter of the Education Act deals with preschool class. It states for example that preschool class should stimulate the pupils' development and learning for their continuing education. Preschool class education is free, but there may be occasional situations where there will be a small cost for the pupils. Preschool class shall be at least 525 hours and shall be carried out over a school year consisting of one autumn term and one spring term.

### THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

The government has issued a new combined national curriculum for compulsory school, preschool class and leisure time centres. The curriculum came into effect from the start of the autumn term, 2011.

Special schools and Sami schools have thier own curricula which are for the most part the same as for compulsory schools. Children may also attend preschool class in special schools and Sami schools.

"Special units" also have their own curriculum which is for the most part identical to the compulsory school curriculum. However the special units curriculum does not cover preschool class.

The first two parts – Fundamental values and tasks of school and Overall goals and guidelines – apply to preschool class and leisure time centres. However, the third part of the curriculum – syllabuses for school subjects – does not apply to preschool class or leisure time centres since education there does not consist of lessons or subject teaching. If you read the first two parts of the curriculum, you can discover what expectations and demands you can place on preschool class. All preschool classes must follow the curriculum.

### THE RIGHT TO PRESCHOOL CLASS

Every child in Sweden has the right to go to preschool class, starting in the autumn term of the year when they turn six. The municipality where you live is obliged to provide your child with a place. On the other hand, preschool class is voluntary. Children may begin before the year when they reach the age of six, which means there is the possibility of a flexible start. Preschool class is not compulsory.

There are municipal, state and independant school classes. A politically elected council is responsible for municipal preschool. Independent preschool classes are run by a board. Preschool classes at special shools or sami schools are operated by the state.





## Step by step in a lifetime of learning

In preschool class the ways and methods of working in preschool and compulsory school can be combined. This is one of the aims of preschool class, which gives it its own identity. Here two types of school, with their similarities and their differences, meet to become a third type – a schooling which from the child's perspective offers the best of both worlds. Preschool class might be said to be a bridge between preschool and compulsory school.

Preschool class shall be based on democratic principals. This is mostly done by the staff creating an open and democratic climate where every pupil gets to experience their own intrinsic value and that of others.

Preschool class should stimulate the development and learning of every pupil, and prepare them for continuing education, while promoting their harmonious development. Play, creativity and discovery are important parts of the education and the pupils' own will and curiosity are engaged. The fundamental principal is that development and learning take place constantly and in every context.

Education in preschool class should give the pupils the opportunity to develop towards the overall goals mentioned in the second part of the curriculum. These goals apply to the whole of the time in compulsory school, so they cannot be attained by the end of the time spent at preschool class, but preschool class may in many ways help the pupils along the path to achieving these goals. Some examples of such goals are that by the end of compulsory school each student will:

- respect the intrinsic value of other people,
- be able to use the Swedish language, both spoken and written in a rich and varied way,
- be able to use mathematical reasoning in further studies and in daily life, and
- take personal responsibility for their studies and their working environment.



## Every preschool class is unique

The curriculum guarantees that every student gets an equivalent education in preschool class, regardless of where they live. On the other hand, the way in which preschool classes work can differ from school to school. What is right for one preschool class may not be the best thing for another. The preschool should be adapted to the pupils and no one group of pupils is the same as any other.

The municipality, state, or board of an independent preschool class are ultimately responsible for preschool class. You can go to them if a problem arises that you and the staff or the head can not solve yourselves.

## Working with the home

The curriculum states that preschool class teachers are obliged to work with you and to keep you constantly informed about your child's progress, well-being and educational development and to keep herself up-to-date on your child's personal situation.

This may take place in a variety of ways; via newsletters, parent meetings or such, but also through the possibility of informal discussions. You are always able to ask for information or in any other way show an interest in what your child and their preschool are doing. You can also let the school know if anything particular has happened which it might be good for the staff to know about.

The Education Act stipulates that you, your child and your child's teacher shall meet and discuss your child's development and learning at least once each school year.

The curriculum should act as a support in this discussion.





## Vill du läsa hela läroplanen?

Läroplanen bör finnas i alla förskoleklasser. Du kan beställa eller ladda ned läroplanen på Skolverkets webbplats [www.skolverket.se](http://www.skolverket.se)

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