

Parent cooperation

In the preschool a great emphasis is put on building good cooperation with all parents with the welfare of the child and the group of children as guidance. Parent cooperation is founded on the basis of equality whereas the parents are specialists in issues regarding their children and preschool teachers specialists in the educational environment of young children. The strength of each preschool community is found in a diverse group of parents but there are many ways to activate that force in cooperation of preschools and families.

Children with mother tongue other than Icelandic

The preschool is supposed to lay a foundation for the knowledge of Icelandic for children with another mother tongue than Icelandic and introduce Icelandic society to them. The preschool should also support and strengthen parents to use and maintain the mother tongue of the children and respect their cultural background. Further information on www.allirmed.is and www.leikskolar.is /Nýir íslendingar

What is the length of stay for children in preschools?

The general opening hours of preschools are from 07:30 to 17:30 and children can stay in the preschool for 4-9 ½ hours per day.

Does the preschool have a summer holiday?

Yes, all children have a four week summer holiday. It varies whether preschools close over the summer time and for how long. Each preschool decides on the summer closing in consultation with the parents.

Are there other holidays in the preschool?

Yes, the preschools are closed six working days every year because of staff planning days and they have authorisation to divide these days if needed. The preschools are also closed on public holidays.

Are other services for children younger than 6 years offered in Reykjavík?

It is possible to arrange for care of children from the age of 6 months with day carers. They operate independently and take children for day care in private houses. The day carers arrange the registration of children themselves. Information about fees for day care with day carers is available from day cares but the city pays a portion of the cost for their care. Further information on day carers and rules regarding their operation can be found on the website of the Preschool Division www.leikskolar.is /Dagforeldrar and from the city's social service centres.

Social Service Centres

The social service centres in the city neighbourhoods offer interdisciplinary and coordinated specialised services to the inhabitants in the fields of education, welfare and sports and leisure.

- Árbær and Grafarholt, Bæjarhálsi 1, tel: 411-1200
- Breiðholt, Álfabakki 12, tel: 411-1300
- Grafarvogur and Kjalarnes, Langarima 21, tel: 411-1400
- Laugardalur and Háaleiti, Síðumúla 39, tel: 411-1500
- Miðborg and Hlíðar, Skúlagata 21, tel: 411-1600
- Vesturbær, Hjarðarhagi 45-47, tel: 411-1700



Information for parents on preschool and other day-care service for children in Reykjavík

Upplýsingar fyrir foreldra um leikskóla og dagvistun í Reykjavík



Reykjavíkurborg
Skóla- og frístundasvið

The preschool is the first school stage

The preschool is the first school stage in the school system and is intended for children under compulsory school age according to the act on preschools no. 90/2008. The preschool takes care of upbringing and education of children if the parents wish and in accordance with law, until children start compulsory school in the year they turn six years old. Municipalities are responsible for the operation of preschools but the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture issues a curriculum guide for preschool activities and oversees its evaluations.

The main goals of upbringing and teaching in preschool shall be:

- to monitor and promote universal development of children in close cooperation with parents,
- to offer organized speech activation and promote normal skills in Icelandic,
- to foster children mentally, intellectually and physically in accordance with the needs of each and every one so the children are able to enjoy their childhood,
- to contribute to children broad-mindedness and promote their moral consciousness,
- to lay a foundation for children to become independent, active and responsible participants in a democratic society which is developing fast and continuously,
- to cultivate children's talents for expression and creativity for the purpose of among other, to strengthen their identity, health-awareness, safety and capabilities for human interaction.

Is the preschool for everyone?

The preschool is for all children, independent of their mental and physical abilities, culture and religion.

Reykjavík Preschools

The operation of Reykjavík city preschools is overseen by the Preschool Division which also monitors them and sets their professional policy. On the website of the Preschool Division there is

further information and an overview of all the preschools in the city www.leikskolar.is /*Leikskólar borgarinnar*.

When is a child registered for preschool?

An application for preschool can be made as soon as the identification number of a child has been registered. Children are put on a waiting list for a preschool place when they turn one year old. Their order on the list is determined by their date and year of birth. It is the policy of the authorities of Reykjavík City to ensure for all children a place in preschool during the year that they turn two years old.

How is the registration?

Registration for preschools in the city is done through Electronic Reykjavík (Rafræn Reykjavík), Reykjavík City's service web www.rafraen.reykjavik.is. It is possible to get assistance to fill out the electronic application for a preschool stay at the city's social service centres and the Reykjavík City service centre at Borgartún 12-14, tel: 411-1111.

What is the cost of having a child in preschool?

Information about preschool fees are on www.leikskolar.is/leikskolar_borgarinnar/gjaldskra. The amount of preschool fees is determined by how long the child is at school every day but the city of Reykjavík subsidises preschool fees.

What is included in the preschool fee?

- Education and care for the child.
- Breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshments.
- Support or special education if needed.

What is an attendance agreement?

An agreement for attendance is made between the preschool and parents when the child starts the preschool. A mutual termination notice of an attendance agreement is one month minimum, normally on the 1st and 15th day of every month. By signing the attendance agreements the parents confirm that they have familiarised themselves with the tariff of the Preschool Division and rules

about preschool services. If the preschool fees are not paid when due, a process of collection is started and the Reykjavík City Preschool Division reserves the right to terminate the attendance agreement if payment is not received. See further rules regarding preschool services on [www.leikskolar.is/Leikskólar borgarinnar \(innritun\)](http://www.leikskolar.is/Leikskolar_borgarinnar_innritun).

Independently run preschools.

Registration for independently run preschools is done at the school itself and there one can obtain information about preschool fees that the city subsidise. The Preschool Division monitors independently run preschools. Further information is on [www.leikskolar.is/Sjálfstætt starfandi leikskólar](http://www.leikskolar.is/Sjalfstætt_starfandi_leikskolar).

Are all preschools alike?

All preschools are operated in accordance with the same law and curriculum guide. They do however have the leeway for independent practices and have different emphasis on their professional work. Study in preschool occurs through play and creative work where the children enjoy diverse forms of nurturing. All preschools make a school curriculum. Every year preschools should make a work plan that is approved by the parent council and submitted to the education council.

Is it possible to choose a preschool for the child?

Yes, parents have a choice and can choose the preschool they consider most suitable for their child.

What is adaptation?

A time for adaptation is assumed when the child starts preschool and that the parents accompany the child for the initial steps in a new environment. Each preschool has their own arrangement for adaptation and informs the parents about it during the first interview. An effort should be made to ensure interpretation services for those parents who do not speak Icelandic or use sign language.