Pikku-Aino Kindergarten, Early Childhood Education and Care Plan 2022-2023

City of Oulu, ECEC Services
ECEC Plan, City of Oulu
General Description of ECEC Activities

We welcome all Children are welcome to out kindergarten, as they are, different but the same. Our daily activities are versatile and taking in consideration of our children’s individual needs.

In our kindergarten we have both Finnish and English groups. We are multicultural and culturally sensitive kindergarten.

Our kindergarten is part of nation-wide two-year pre-school trial. Additionally, we are part of national "Half of the Day Care Day Outdoors"-project. Also, we are a pilot kindergarten at a STEAM pedagogy project.

Out target is a positive and encouraging environment, in which the Children are happy to play, grow and learn.
Transversal competence

Where-ever there is action, there is also learning. In our kindergarten our target is versatile range of activities, which brings Children many opportunities of trying new things, as well as learning.

We do remind all Children that all Children as well as adults have strengths, and equally all Children and adults have things to learn. We encourage Children to learn, to research and to try. We give positive, encouraging feedback for trying and trying again.

We support and encourage at the moments of learning something new. We encourage for independent thinking and independency in daily lives.
Joy of Learning

At our kindergarten we see that each Child is in their own unique way enjoying being active and learning new things. We remember that each Child is unique as a learner, and we give Children space to learn at their own ways.

We provide time and space for learning and processing. We remember, that usually learning requires several tries. Also, we acknowledge that learning is not limited to adult-lead activities, but during free playing time is Children are learning from each other.

Often, adults do learn from Children.
**Participation**

In our kindergarten the participation of Children is based on the sensitivity of adults and true will to encounter each Child as they are.

With parents we are communicating daily when dropping and collecting their Children. Additionally, communication can be written, such as through eVaka system.

Minimum twice a year, at ECEC meeting and Evaluation meeting, parents and kindergarten Educators are sitting down and talking about the parent’s the Children’s thoughts and wishes regarding ECEC at our Kindergarten.
Play

First and foremost, we remember that Children learn when they play. Adults enrich the Children’s games by participating.
Importantly, in our Kindergarten all Children are welcome to play. We have absolutely no tolerance for bullying of any kind, including leaving Children out of games.
Toys and other equipment are within Children’s reach. The environment is modified to enable Children’s interests. The equipment is suitable for age- and development level of the Children.
Being active

Every day, at any weather, we go outdoors. Therefore, the Children need weather-appropriate clothing. Our kindergarten is part of “Half of the Day Care Day Outdoors” – project.

We keep the physical education equipment within Children’s reach and at our daily lives we try to avoid sitting still for too long.

Physical education classes or sessions are part of our weekly routine. We use either Kasarmi gym or our kindergarten’s own gym for these classes. We walk nearby kindergarten weekly, remembering that walking is the best exercise, and it enables you to see things you cannot see from the car windows.
Living in Oulu

Our Kindergarten has a favorable location within walking distance to many different locations of interest, such as Theatre, Main Library and Science Centre Tietomaa, to mention few. Ainola Park brings to nature close to our central location.

We take excursions from our Kindergarten Yard, and our main way to get around is walking. We get to know the urban environment, and go to see things such as statues, buildings and other Oulu interest points.

When offered, we partake to Culture events offered in the City. Alakööki is a unit offering Children’s culture events for Children participating in ECEC. We also do co-operation with some other local institutions.
**Taking in consideration Children’s wishes**

Our activities are based on Children’s active participation and interest. Especially free playing time is time for Children to express and practice the activities of their interest.

Our target is safe environment, in which the Children can express their thoughts and wishes to the adults.

Sometimes, due language matters or others, Children prefer to talk about their wishes to their parents at home. Should the parent's convoy these wishes to the staff members, we try to take these wishes into consideration when planning the programme.
Taking in consideration Parent’s wishes

Some parents, who are not from Finland, may find that Finnish Education system is different to the culture of education they are used to in their own home countries.

We follow the National Core Curriculum, and follow the latest research regarding learning, development as well as Early Childhood Education and Care.

The staff members have daily face-to-face talks with the parents when dropping off and collecting their Child. The parents’ meetings are additional opportunity for the parents to learn more about the ECEC and education in Finland, and to express their opinions.
Evaluation

Evaluation, both individual-, team- and whole kindergarten level are the foundation of our Programme.

Our planning is based on evaluating the programme of the past, and evaluation in present at our continuous development work. We know ECEC Law, Core Curriculum and other Curriculums, and we evaluate our activities to these documents.

We observe the children and take in their verbal and non-verbal feedback.