Experiences of Scandinavian countries, improving kindergarten and preprimary education accessibility, quality and effectiveness

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Early childhood education

→ Background

- Human rights
- The Convention of Right of the Child
- The professional Ethics for kindergarten and pre-school teaches (Human worth, honesty, justice and freedom)
- Laws and other official documents
- Core Curriculum for pre-school education
- The National Curriculum Guidelines on Early Childhood Education and Care in Finland (serves as a basis for local - municipal - curricula and for the curricula implemented in the day-care centres and other forms of ECEC, such as family day care).

→ In Finland and Sweden: every child under school age has subjective right to take part in the daycare according to the family’s choice
Childcare and education

Childcare
Education
Pre-primary

Integrated systems in Northern countries

"EduCare" model
Traditions in early childhood education in Northern countries 1/2

➔ A child is in the focus
Welfare, childhood is unique, a child is a member of society and nation etc.

➔ Curriculum gives the frame for activities
Frames for activities, responsibility in the local level; a child has possibilities to take part in activities etc.

➔ Principles in the practice
Child-centered, interaction, partnership with parents, quality of life etc.

➔ Pedagogy for learning
Play, mates, learning strategies and learning environments etc.
Learning environments
Indoor and outdoor activities

Evaluation
- Individual learning goals for a child are usually planned and made with parents
- Testing only if it is needed and a child seems to have some difficulties
Starting the primary school age in the Northern countries

- Denmark: 7
- Finland: 7
- Iceland: 6
- Norway: 6
- Sweden: 7 (voluntary 6)
Denmark

Transition from kindergarten to School in Denmark: "Bilding bridges" (Broström)

**Kindergarten**: 3-5 or 6 years old

**Kindergarten class**: 6 years old

**Leisure centers**: after school, 6-9 years old

Pedagogies (teachers): "pre-school teachers", "daycare provider"
Island

Educational system

**Playschool**: group care for children up to 6 years old

**Compulsory school** from the age 6
(children start primary school in the fall of the year they turn 6 years old)

(Einarsdottir)
Norway

- **Daycare center**: before school age
- **Kindergarten**: also "pre-school"
- **Pre-school**: provision for children before school age

(Germeten)
Sweden

- **Care**: young children in the group settings
- **Daycare**: pre-school service
- **Pre-school classes**: services to children before they enter compulsory school
- **After school daycare** (Johansson)
Finland

- **Daycare centers**: education and care for 0-6 years old children
- **Preschool**: the year before children start compulsory schooling
- **Pre-school group**: group of 6 years old children in day care center or primary school
- **After school activities** (Hännikäinen)
Core curriculum and contextual learning in pre-school education for six years old children - example from Finland
Contextual learning in preschool education 1/2

- The learning process in childhood and in preschool education is understood contextually: the environment in its totality, home, preschool and all other things around the child are important supporters in the learning process.

- Pedagogy is integrated with the whole environment. The idea of contextual learning and pedagogy (Bronfenbrenner; Hujala 2002) emphasizes children’s learning by experience.
The purpose of preschool education is to guarantee that the child is taken care of and he grows with self confidence to develop a rich emotional life in the learning environment.

From the cultural point of view learning environment gives occasions and space for a child to know his own culture and identify himself with it.
Culture

Parents

'Personal Coals in Early childhood Education

Teachers

Of living

Parents view in Education

Education Policies of education

Teachers view in Education

Parents view in Education

Child centered view and Child as active learner

Role of adults creating active developmental environment

Contact and co-operation between individuals and developmental environment

Contextuality of growth

Pedagogy of learning

Child and learning

Language and communication

Mathematics

Science

Religion and Ethics

Physical training and health

Culture and Arts

Play

Group

Activities offered by adults

Child's own experience and significance

CULTURE AND LEARNING
Content of core subjects in preschool education 1/2

- In the Finnish national curriculum for six-year old children the goals are physical, social, emotional, aesthetic, cognitive and ethical development, and religious education.
- Subjects are integrated with play and other forms of activities, since they are not taught on specific lessons as in school.
According to humanistic philosophy the education of children for the future and their development of emotionality and empathy are important goals for general education of citizens.