

Preparatory education in Kaskinen

Preparatory education in basic education is intended for children of primary school age with an immigrant background whose Finnish or Swedish language skills are not yet sufficient to study in basic education.

As a rule, preparatory education is organized inclusively, but it can also be arranged in a group format if necessary. In inclusive preparatory education, pupils are part of a basic education group throughout the teaching, except for differentiated lessons and additional classes. These teach especially the Finnish or Swedish language, culture and the vocabulary. Also challenging contents of different subjects, which have difficult vocabulary and concepts.

The aim of teaching is to get to know the Finnish school in a versatile way and to develop the pupil's language skills and school readiness for the transition to basic education.

In preparatory education, the language of instruction is Finnish or Swedish, depending on whether the pupil is continuing to basic education in Finnish or Swedish. The school language is chosen by the pupil's guardian.

Teaching

A separate study program is always drawn up for the pupil in preparatory education, which defines the objectives of the pupil's learning, the subjects to be studied, the number of hours and the contents, as well as the organization of guidance and the support measures that the pupil may need.

The teaching focuses on the development of the pupil's language skills and the provision of skills for pre-primary or basic education. Preparatory education promotes the balanced development and integration of pupils into Finnish society. Functional and experiential learning environments, versatile teaching methods and the use of language in different communication environments are utilized in teaching.

The key is to learn vocabulary, concepts and phrases related to studying and school life. In addition, it is necessary to address Finnish culture in the content of teaching, for example, holidays and customs, as well as nature and the environment.

During preparatory education, the objectives of teaching in other subjects follow, where applicable, the objectives of the basics of the basic education curriculum. Different subjects and the language used in them are central to learning.

How long?

The scope of preparatory education corresponds to the syllabus of one academic year. 900 hours of instruction are given to pupils aged 6–10 years and at least 1000 hours to pupils older than this.

A pupil may transfer to pre-primary or basic education even before the number of hours of preparatory education is reached, if it is estimated that he or she has sufficient skills to do so.

Towards multilingualism

Students in preparatory education are encouraged to use the languages they know in a versatile manner in classes in different subjects and in other school activities. The learning and use of the pupil's own mother tongue supports the acquisition of the objectives and contents of different subjects. It is important that pupils learn to communicate about school and their studies also in their mother tongue.

Where possible, teaching in the pupil's own mother tongue is provided in the manner defined in the pupil's own study program.

Assessment and certificates

At the end of the preparatory education, the pupil is given a certificate of participation, which describes the scope and content of the teaching.

The curriculum for preparatory education in basic education and its appendices (only in Finnish and Swedish). ([LINK](#))

VALO project 2022-2023

During the academic year 2022-2023, the Finnish National Agency for Education's project on the launch and development of preparatory education for basic education in Kaskinen has drawn up a guide for teachers in preparatory education and collected a material bank for teachers. The guide and material bank can be found on the city's intranet.