

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

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 broadmindedness 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.

Seltjarnarnes Preschool – Leikskóli Seltjarnarnes

The operation of Seltjarnarnes Preschool is overseen by the School Office which also monitors it and sets its professional policy. On the website of the School Office there is further information.

<http://www.seltjarnarnes.is/thjonusta/menntun/>

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 Seltjarnarnes municipal 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 Seltjarnarnes (Rafrænt Seltjarnarnes), <http://rafraent.seltjarnarnes.is/pages/> It is possible to get assistance to fill out the electronic application for a preschool stay at the Seltjarnarnes service centre at Austurströnd 2, tlf.: 5959100.

What is the cost of having a child in preschool?

Information about preschool fees are on <http://www.seltjarnarnes.is/thjonusta/gjaldskrar/> The amount of preschool fees is determined by how long the child is at school every day but the municipal of Seltjarnarnes 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 and rules about preschool services. If the preschool fees are not paid when due, a process of collection is started and the School Office of Seltjarnarnes reserves the right to terminate the attendance agreement if payment is not received. See further rules regarding preschool services on <http://www.seltjarnarnes.is/thjonusta/menntun/leikskolar/>

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 municipal subsidise

The operation of Seltjarnarnes Preschool

Seltjarnarnes preschool is operated in accordance with the same law and curriculum guide. It does however have the leeway for independent practices and have different emphasis on its professional work. Study in preschool occurs through play and creative work where the children enjoy diverse forms of nurturing. The preschool makes a school curriculum. Every year the preschool shall make a work plan that is approved by the parent council and submitted to the education council.

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. The preschool 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.

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 the 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 preschool is from 07:45 to 17:15 and children can stay in the preschool for 4-9 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. The preschool decides on the summer closing in consultation with the Parents Council.

Are there other holidays in the preschool?

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

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

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 municipal pays a portion of the cost for their care. Further information on day carers and rules regarding their operation can be found on <http://www.seltjarnarnes.is/thjonusta/menntun/daggaesla/>