

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HYVINKÄÄ'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES!

Daycare is intended for children under the age of seven. Daycare is more than care; it also incorporates early childhood education. This means upbringing, teaching and care which are pedagogically designed with carefully considered aims. Our Early Childhood Education and Care Services are provided by a staff of trained kindergarten teachers and care providers.

Our services include:

- Early childhood education and care at a daycare centre
- Early childhood education and care in family daycare
- Pre-primary education for 6-year-olds
- Clubs
- Family activity centres (meeting places for families)

All children under the age of 7 have the right to 20 hours a week of early childhood education and care. Multilingual children under the age of 3 are often recommended 7 hours of early childhood education and care a day to support them in learning Finnish. If the guardians go to work, study, or otherwise need more early childhood education and care than this, we offer alternatives with different scopes of early childhood education and care. For more information go to www.hyvinkaa.fi/varhaiskasvatus

A daycare centre is usually divided into several groups of children with several educators. Each group consists of 12–21 children. Family daycare is provided in the care provider's home for groups of 4 children.

Daycare centres are open from 6:00 to 18:00, as necessary. Childcare is also available for evening or night-time. This requires that both parents are working shifts. An evening daycare centre is open between 6:00–22:00 and a 24-hour daycare centre round the clock.

All children have the right to pre-primary education in the year preceding compulsory education. Usually a child participates in pre-primary education the year he or she turns six years old. Pre-primary education must always be applied for separately, even if the child is already receiving early childhood education and care. The daily amount of pre-primary education is four hours. Pre-primary education begins in August and is free. Any daycare needed in addition to pre-primary education is subject to a charge.

We offer club activities for children who are looked after by a parent at home. You may be granted child home care allowance for a child who is looked after at home. In such cases, the child can participate in a club but may not receive care at a daycare centre or in family daycare.

A family activity centre is a meeting place where a parent and child can come together to meet other parents and children. It is also a place where you can meet experts of various fields. You do not need to register for a family activity centre. The City of Hyvinkää's website provides the monthly programmes for the Pikku-Veturi and Päiväpirtti family activity centres.

Applying for services:

To apply for a place at a municipal daycare centre or family day care, go to the City of Hyvinkää's website or a daycare centre to get a daycare application form. <http://www.hyvinkaa.fi/kasvatus-ja-koulutus/varhaiskasvatus/hakeminen/>

A place at an early childhood education and care facility can be applied for year round. The application should be submitted 4 months before the need for daycare begins. If the need for daycare occurs suddenly, a daycare placement must be applied for as soon as possible, although no less than 2 weeks before the need for daycare begins. A sudden need may be caused, for example, by finding employment that begins shortly, or because of receiving a study place.

Club placements can also be applied for year round. A placement will be granted at the earliest on the day that the child turns 2 years old.

The decision about the placement will be sent to your home address. Enclosed with the decision will be an acceptance form for you to fill in. Please return this form to the service coordination of Early Childhood Education and Care Services at the City Hall.

Charges:

Early childhood education and care is subject to a charge. The charge depends on the size of the family, the need for the service (i.e. the agreed-upon time of care) and income before taxes. To allow us to determine the charge, guardians must always provide some documentation, such as a payslip, proof of studying, decision on unemployment benefit, etc. If the required certificates are not supplied, the highest fee will be charged for the child's care. The activities of family activity centres are free, as is pre-primary education.

The fee for clubs is €36 per month.

If the place offered for early childhood education and care is not accepted, it must be cancelled in writing; otherwise a fee will be charged for it.

Starting daycare:

After a decision has been made on a placement for daycare, the director of the relevant daycare centre will contact the child's family and make an appointment for a meeting. During this meeting, often with the help of an interpreter, arrangements will be made for visiting the place of care and other practicalities will be agreed upon relating to the start of daycare. At the same time, a preliminary discussion with the group educator will take place, as with every child.

Individual Early Childhood Education and Care Plan:

An individual Early Childhood Education and Care Plan is made for every child at the child's daycare centre or family day care about two months after starting daycare.

Further information:

Issues relating to early childhood education and care are mainly handled at the City Hall by the service coordinators of Early Childhood Education and Care Services. The languages of communication are Finnish and English.

Service coordination of early childhood education and care,
City Hall, Kankurinkatu 4–6
tel: 0400 784 791
email: varhaiskasvatus.palveluohjaus@hyvinkaa.fi

There is also a service point for immigrants at the Mosaiikki Family Centre.

Mosaiikki,
Suutarinkatu 2 D, 1st floor
tel: 040 768 9524
opening hours:
Mon–Tue 12–15
Wed 9–12
Thu–Fri 12–15