



SEINÄJOKI
City of Seinäjoki

Children's Day Care in Finland

Harri Jokiranta
27.10.2010



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Early Childhood Education and Care System in Finland - educare

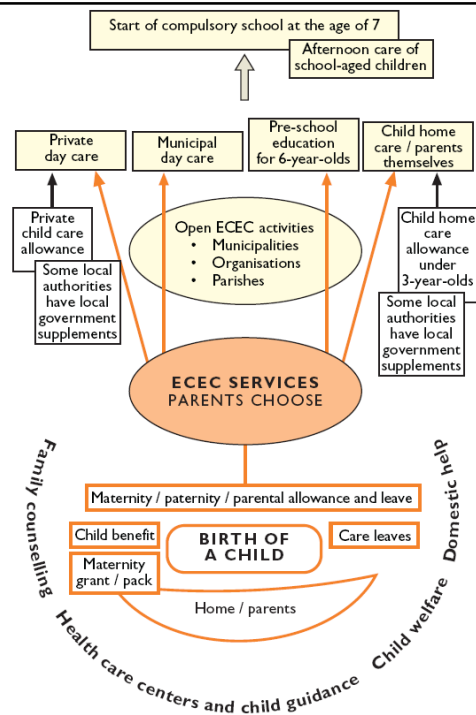
- Finnish early childhood education and care (ECEC) covers both the
 - child day care arrangements offered to the families and
 - the goal-oriented early childhood education for children.
- The framework for the implementation of ECEC is provided by
 - the Act and Decree on Children's Day Care (1973);
 - the Government Resolution Concerning the National Policy Definition on Early Childhood Education and Care (2002);
 - the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care in Finland (2003);
 - the Basic Education Act (1998);
 - the Core Curriculum for Pre-School Education (2000).

System I

In the Finnish system, a child and the child's parents or other guardians are essentially provided with equal rights irrespective of the child's place of birth and care (e.g. in cases of foster care and adoption)



1. Caring for the child at home on care leave and receiving child home care allowance (until the youngest child turns three years)
2. Having the child cared for in private day care with the private child care allowance
3. Having the child cared for in municipal day care.



System II

- Municipalities must offer day care in the official languages of Finland: Finnish, Swedish and Sàmi. Day care should also support the language and culture of speakers of Romany and children of immigrant background.
- The day care fees are based on family size and income level. For low income families day care is free. Client fees cover about 15 percent of the total day care costs.
- Fees at the whole day care
 - max 254 € / month for the first child,
 - for the second child max 229 € / month and
 - for the third and others 20 % of the first child's fee

Idea for Child Day Care

- Pedagogical aspect
 - children's development → education and social rules
- Social service aspect
 - family development → support families everyday life
- Sociological / political aspect
 - society development → "women in work life", gender equality
- Universal right
 - strengthen civil society → equal possibilities and social security/safety

Women's entry into working life

- WOMEN STARTED to enter the labour market in Finland as a result of the change in the economic structure at the turn of the century and in the early 20th century.
 - Since the turn of the century, it had become common that adult women were supporting themselves – until they got married. At first, women functioned privately as maids in families and gradually moved into factories and public services. For a long time, however, agriculture was the operating environment, in which women were employed.
- In order to function in an occupation, women either had to work away from the home or acquire work to be done at home. In both cases, they had to arrange the care of any children themselves.
 - The proportion of services started to increase after the Second World War. The amount of women in gainful employment subsequently extended to married women.

In terms of family policy, the Government will

- promote such conditions and co-operation between various quarters that support responsible parenthood, a secure growth environment and progress towards balanced adult maturity;
- develop morning and afternoon care for small schoolchildren;
- safeguard varied alternatives in the organization of child care;
- endeavour to increase the flexibility of day care so that it will better correspond to the needs of early childhood education and care and the changed labour market;
- investigate the possibilities to create a system that would guarantee fathers the right to a month of parental leave; and
- advance equality in working life and the implementation of good practices in equality issues in working communities.

Children in Day Care at the end of 2003

Age	Children in municipal day care (including outsourced services) % of the age group	Children in private day care (according to private care allowance) % of the age group	Total (municipal & private) % of the age group
0	1.3	0.2	1.4
1	24.9	2.6	27.5
2	40.3	3.5	43.9
3	57.4	4.9	62.3
4	63.6	4.9	68.5
5	68.0	5.0	73.0
6	64.1	3.5	67.6
Total	46.0	3.5	49.5

Day Care / City of Seinäjoki I

- **Responding to the needs of families with children and of our changing society.**
- **Right to Day Care**
 - All children under school age are entitled to municipal day care after the mother's, the father's or another custodian's parents' allowance period has ended.
- **Day care is arranged in such a way that it provides an appropriate place for the care and education of the child and continuous care at the time of the day it is needed.**
- **According to the choice made by the family, it is either all-day or part-time care.**
- **Special day care is arranged if required to support the care and upbringing of a child.**
- **Operational Units**
 - Day care is provided by day care centres, group day care centres and in private day care. The professional and qualified staff acts in educational cooperation with the children in day care and their parents. There is also round-the-clock day care and evening care available.

Day Care / City of Seinäjoki II

- **DAY CARE CENTRES**
 - The 14 centres provide day care for families with children on weekdays from 6.30 to 18.00. In addition, three day care centres provide child care in the evening and one, respectively, both day and night.
- **FAMILY DAY CARE**
 - In family day care, some more than 100 family child minders provide child care at their own homes. The allowed maximum number of child care places one child minder can provide is 4.5.
- **GROUP FAMILY DAY CARE**
 - A total of 12 group family day care centres provide group family day care. At one group family day care centre, 2 to 3 family child minders work together, in facilities provided by the City. The allowed maximum number of children one child minder can work with is 4.
- **OPEN DAY CARE CENTRE**
 - A meeting point for families with children, who can visit it two days a week. Moreover, at the open day care centre, there is a family support group, which is a support point for people with children in different life situations. The group meets two days a week.

Day Care / City of Seinäjoki III

■ SPECIAL DAY CARE

- Two itinerant specialised kindergarten teachers working in the entire city area and in all kinds of day care. There are two integrated small groups for 12 children. The group is comprised of five children in need of special support and seven support children. In both of them, there is a specialised kindergarten teacher among the staff.

■ PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

- Five playgrounds providing activities in the summertime (June-July). The playground activities are free of charge for families and arranged by playground activities instructors chosen through applications. The activities take place daily for five hours.

■ SCHOOLCHILDREN'S MORNING AND AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

- Morning and afternoon activities for schoolchildren as services purchased from other providers (e.g. Evangelic Lutheran Congregation of Seinäjoki and various organizations). The City of Seinäjoki is in charge of the coordination of the activities.

Day Care / City of Seinäjoki IV

■ SPECIAL SCHOOLCHILDREN'S AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

- There is a group for afternoon activities for special schoolchildren from 12 to 17 on weekdays and, when needed, from 8 to 17 during school vacations.

■ PURCHASED SERVICES

- Day care services are purchased from private day care centres (Muksula, Pajulintu and Tenavakoti) by the City of Seinäjoki to the same extent as before. The providers of private services are expected to be of the same quality as the units maintained by the City.

Statistic / City of Seinäjoki (pop 57.000)

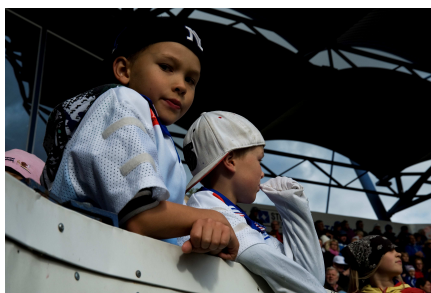
■ Children at day care (2939)

- Day care centers 1 839
- Family day care 540
- Group family care 344
- Private day care 216
- Children age 0-6 about 5 000 → 60% at Day Care

■ Personnel at day care (730)

- Day care centers 407
- Family day care 193
- Group family care 67
- Special day care 53
- Administration 10

■ Budget in day care 2011 36 M€



Thank You!