

BEING A PARENT of a child at kindergarten



COOPERATION BETWEEN THE HOME AND KINDERGARTEN

For children to thrive and develop, it is important to have close cooperation between the home and kindergarten. This is greatly emphasised in the Norwegian Act relating to Kindergartens and the regulations on a framework plan for the content and tasks of kindergartens. For successful cooperation, parents and the kindergarten must have close contact. This contact is performed daily when bringing and picking up children, and through development meetings and parents' meetings.

Start-up

The first meeting with the kindergarten is important for both the family and staff. The kindergarten shall help ensure that the child and parents experience security and trust from day one. Children are different and respond differently to starting kindergarten. Some settle down in the new environment very quickly while others need more time.

At the beginning, the child should only remain at the kindergarten for a few hours with one or both parents. The number of hours can gradually be increased. The kindergarten will make an agreement with you on how to arrange the first few days. It is important to be present and available for the child during this period. Always tell your child when you are leaving and let them know that the kindergarten staff will be taking care of him/her while you are gone. This helps the child to feel safe and secure, and to trust you and the staff.

Many kindergartens like to have a meeting with the parents immediately after the child starts kindergarten. The meeting shall help the kindergarten to become familiar with the child. Here you can inform the kindergarten about any special needs the child may have, for example, in relation to food, sleep and interests, and who is allowed to pick up the child or other things the kindergarten should take into consideration. At the meeting, the kindergarten will also have the opportunity to give you important information.





Information about the content of kindergartens

All kindergartens have a yearly plan describing the kindergarten's educational programme, and they often give information through monthly or departmental newsletters. Here you will receive a timetable, and perhaps an assessment of completed activities. Many kindergartens regularly document what has happened during the day in the form of photographs, text, or both. Some kindergartens also have digital solutions for exchanging information.

Informal conversations

Much of the contact between the kindergarten and parents is in the form of informal conversations, for example, in the cloakroom when bringing and picking up their child. Other children and adults may also be present. Should you wish to talk about something that you would prefer no one else to hear, you can request a private conversation.



Formal conversations

Kindergartens invite parents for a mandatory development meeting twice per year. This is a meeting between the kindergarten teacher and parents of each child. Here you can discuss the needs of your child, and his/her wellbeing and development. You can ask the kindergarten to book an interpreter for the development meeting should you wish to have one.

Parents' meetings

Kindergartens hold a parents' meeting once or twice per year. All parents are invited. Current issues concerning the kindergarten are discussed at the meeting and everyone parents can make suggestions.

Parents' council and coordinating committee

The parents' council is made up of all the parents of the children at the kindergarten. The parents' council shall promote the parents' joint interests and help ensure that the cooperation between the kindergarten and parent group creates a good kindergarten environment.

The Coordinating Committee (SU) is made up of the parents and kindergarten staff. SU shall safeguard good collaboration between the kindergarten and the children's homes. Matters that are important for the kindergarten must be handled by SU, for example, the yearly plan, budget, changed operational form or organisation.

