

**What's up in education**

New models for future pre-school services

# Educational models of governance and ECEC services organisation

**SWEDEN**



**Piteå kommun**



Co-founded by the Erasmus+  
Programme of the European Union

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# General context

## Socio-cultural context characteristics

(culture, traditions, geographic area,...)

Sweden is a country in northern Europe, which today has 10 million inhabitants. Piteå is part of the region Norrbotten to the surface are huge but with only 250,000 inhabitants. The region includes both the coast and the mountains, with the Arctic Circle in the middle. Piteå is located on the coast of the southern part of the region and has a total of 41 000 inhabitants. Our preschool area is located in a part of Piteå called Öjebyn The population in Öjebyn is about 4200 people.

In Öjebyn are various residential areas with a mixed housing environment of both villas and apartments. Socio-cultural is a great variety in terms of income, which means that there are major socio-cultural differences. Öjebyn has also many newly arrived families. It has also several places for unaccompanied refugee children. Öjebyn is not counted as a central parts of Piteå. Byt many of the important social functions are in Öjebyn, such as preschools, schools, sports and swimming pool arena, supermarkets, libraries, gas station, etc...

Preschool in Sweden is well developed, 480 000 children are enrolled in preschool in the country. 83% of all 1-5 year old children are enrolled in preschool. In the age group 3-5 years is 95% of the children enrolled in preschool. Of these are 20% enrolled in private preschools. 53% of the staff working in preschool are teachers.

# School system in Sweden

## Compulsory school system: different school levels and their management

Preschool class (6 years) not mandatory, but 95 percent of all children attend.

Regular compulsory school (from 7 to 16 years)

Secondary school (from 16 to 19 years) not mandatory, but 99 percent of all young attend.

Special school (10 years program)

School for children with learning disabilities (10 years program)

Independent schools (4 percent of the children)

After school care

For children (6 to 12 years)

Leisuretime centre often integrated into the compulsory school

Pedagogical activities focus on social upbringing

For children whose parents work, study or are unemployed.

Parents pay fee for their children to attend after school care.

For all of our compulsory schools in Piteå are the municipality management.

# Local ECEC Services system

## Local ECEC Services system characteristics

All preschools in the municipality works from selected targets of the preschool curriculum. These targets are monitored and evaluated systematically during the year. In all municipal preschools, we work consciously with sustainable development in three different perspectives, socially, ecologically and economically. All preschools are working consciously with nontoxic environment. Mathematics and language/communication in recent years has been the development areas for the municipal preschools. So even ICT as a teaching tool with the children.

## Type and number of local ECEC services and related management

Öjebyns preschools work, more or less, clearly based on the Reggio Emilia philosophy, from the age of 1 year. The fact that it lives many newly arrived families in Öjebyn, efforts to include children with other cultures has been necessary.

In Öjebyn are four kindergartens. In total, 220 children in our preschools. 55 teachers working with these children, of whom approximately 40 are teachers. Öjebyns kindergartens have two pre-school managers. Öjebyn also has a private preschool. There, about 50 children and 12 teachers.

# Local ECEC Services system

## Educational background

Between **1970-80** century changed the political ideas of the nursery in preschool. From care to learning. During these decades preschool was expanded. One of the reasons was that the women were needed in the workplace.

**1985** - Parliamentary decision on preschool for all children. This would be fully developed in 1991.

**1998** - the first preschool curriculum. Now preschool belongs to education department.

**2010** - The curriculum is revised - the objectives of language and communication, mathematics and science / technology clarified. So the division of responsibility between preschool teachers and other team, as well for preschool manager.

**2011** - The preschool is now a part of the Swedish education system, and must now take into account the education law.

**2016** - The curriculum is revised again, new chapter clarifies the transitions between preschool and preschool class.



# Local ECEC Services system

## Access/Accessibility (regulations, ways, cost, age, access rate, ...)

Access to preschool within 3 month from that parents sought access in preschool until they fit, how ever, the child must have one year of age.

Preschool are for children from 1 - 5 years whose parents are studying, working, sick- parental leave.

Children between 1-3 years, whose parents are unemployed or on parental leave has the right to preschool for 15 hours per week. Parents pays for the preplace.

Public preschool are for children from 3 years of age. Children are in preschool 15 hours per week and it's free of charge (Includes a free meal - lunch)

The fee is based on household income. With household means single people, couples or living together who share residence. It is the city council that decides on rules and fees for preschool in Piteå

Households whose whole income is below 1600€ per month pay a lower fee.

Families who earn less than 700€ per month pays no fee.

Between 1600 € - 4500€ = 1st child 3%, 2nd 2%, 3rd 1% of income.

Income higher than 4500€ = maximum fee

Maximum fee:

1 child 136€ per month

2 children 90€

3 children 45€

Parental insurance consists of parental childbirth, temporary parental benefit when the child is sick and entitled to reduced working hours. Parental allowance can be paid for a maximum of 480 days (16 months)

# Local ECEC Services' organisational aspects

## School calendar

Preschools are open from 6 am to 6:30 pm.

## Schedule Attendance

Children schedules depends on the parents' needs. Open every weekday.  
The children have access to preschool the hole year, even during holidays.

Breakfast about 8:00 am

Lunch about 11:00 am

Snacks approximately 2:00 PM

The children, who needs it, sleeps between 12:00 to 2:00 pm

## Numerical ratio between teacher and children

**In general** – in a group of children between 1-3 years old there are often 12 children and three teachers working full time.

In a group of children, between 3-5 years there are often 20 children and three teachers working full time.

## Meal, diet

All the meals are free of charge.

Every day it is always served a main course and a vegetarian dish to choose from for lunch.

All allergic children receive special food.

## Other important aspects

We're outdoors all time of the year, at least once a day.

There is a special education teacher working in the area to support teachers to work with children in need of special support.

The preschools have access to CMIT a media educational center.

Each preschool area have access to a pedagogista to pedagogical and organizational support.