



## 2022 National core curriculum for early education and care (for 0-6-year-olds)

In March 2022 National Affairs of Education published the universal, mandatory National core curriculum for early education and care, which directs to ensure children's rights, safety, safety skills, media skills and sexuality education (in Finnish and Swedish). For example:

- The task of early childhood education is to strengthen skills related to children's well-being and safety.
- Matters relating to children's health and safety are reflected with children. Matters related to safety in everyday situations are practised with children. - The aim is to support the children's sense of security, providing them the ability to ask and seek help, as well as to operate safely in different situations and environments.
- Evolving criticism towards media sources and media is practised. Children are encouraged to use media responsibly, taking into account their own and others' well-being.
- Children are encouraged to ask questions, and children's questions are answered.
- One task is to develop children's understanding of and management of the body. Children will be taught to respect and protect their own and others' bodies.
- *And the sentence which Väestöliitto has proposed is included: **Children's age-appropriate curiosity about sexuality and the human body is to be directed with all due respect.***
- The learning environments are designed and developed in such a way that they strengthen equality and gender equality. This allows for the infringement of traditional gender stereotypes.
- To promote democratic values of the Finnish society, such as equality, gender equality and diversity. Children must have the opportunity to develop their skills and make choices, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, cultural background, or other reasons related to person. The staff must create a respectful atmosphere for diversity.

Finland appears to be currently the only country where universal Early childhood education and care curriculum for all ages encompasses information related to sexuality, safety skills and the body equally for all children. Each child's individual Early childhood education and care plan is made together with the child's parents.