

المؤتمر السنوي الثاني لرعاية وتنمية الطفولة

The Second Annual Conference on Childhood Care and Development

19-20 January 2026 يناير 20-19

Working Together: Supporting Equity and Equal Opportunities for Gifted Children with Disabilities and Twice-Exceptional Learners

The Education System in Finland

Finnish early childhood education and basic education are grounded in **Law** (ECEC & Basic Education Act) and a **National curriculum**.

Schools and early education centers have high autonomy, they

- Create their local&own curriculum based on the national curriculum
- Adapt teaching to meet children's individual needs

The Education System in Finland

<https://youtu.be/9EDdRLG0qi8?si=QsnzHf6JVpiQm6bk>

<https://youtu.be/vVffPgAyUxc?si=XuCYBgEMa14NP91L>

The Education System in Finland

Comprehensive education is publicly founded (free)
from the age of 6-18

ECE from age of 0-6

Pre-school at the age of 6

Primary School from 7-12

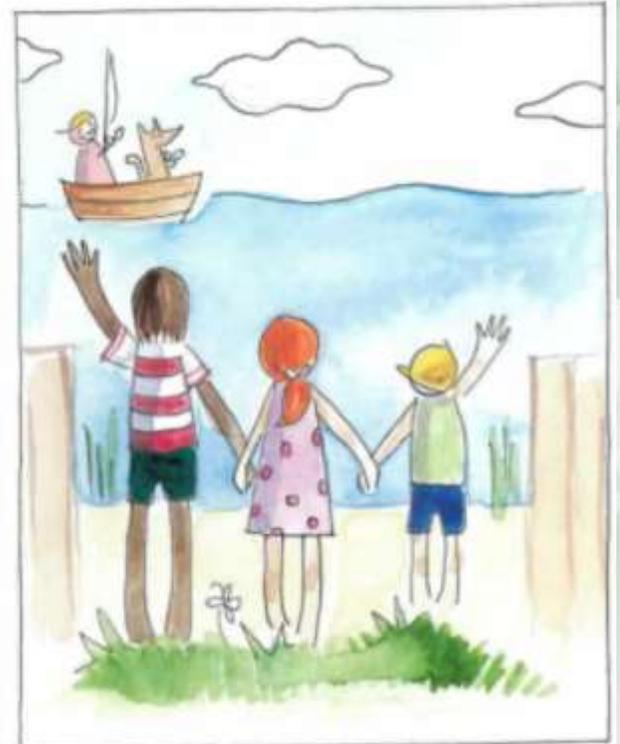
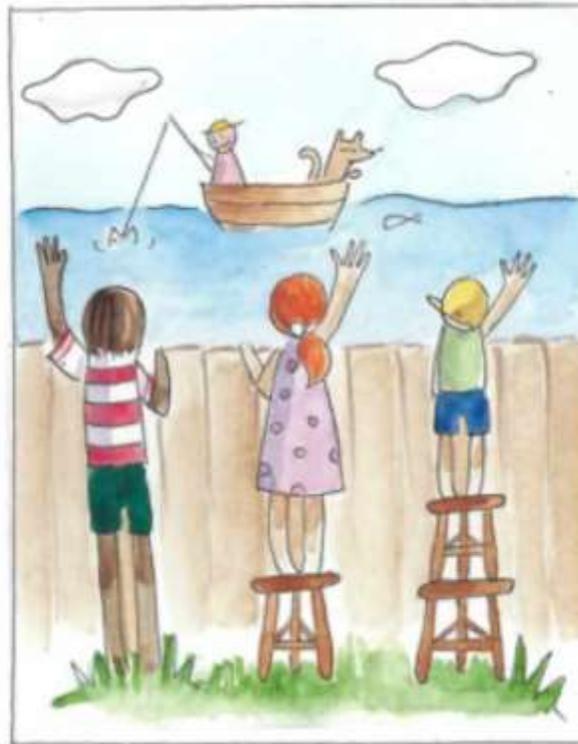
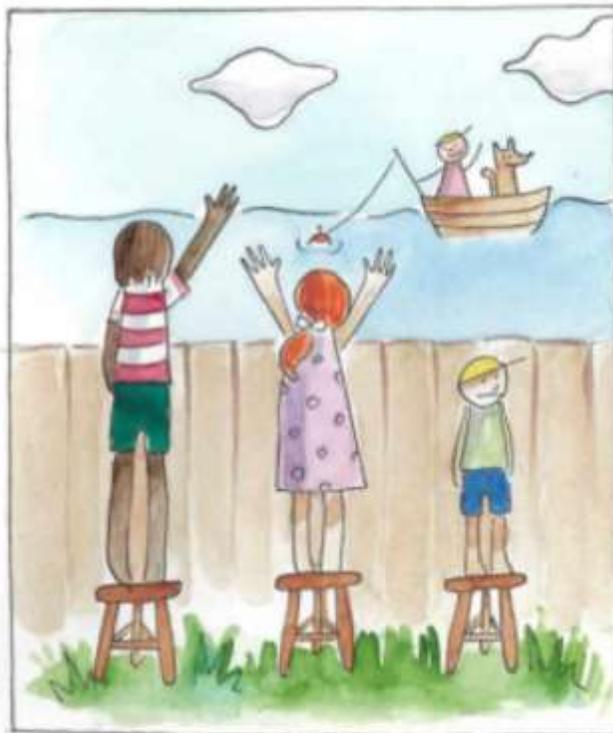
Secondary School from 12-15

High School/Vocational studies 15-18

Equity and Equal Opportunities in Finnish Education

- Equal access to education
- High attendance and in ECE balances gaps & provides early support
- ECE/School close to home
- Qualified and trusted teachers
- Equity: Meeting needs, not identical support

Equality and Equal Opportunities in Finnish Education



Twice-Exceptional Learners and Why is Their Talent often Missed?

- Support needs can hide strengths
- Strong abilities can compensate difficulties
- Concentrating only on support needs
- The environment does not support the talent (inclusion)
- Misidentification due to limited training

Working Together: Guardians

- Cooperation with guardians start in ECE - continuity
- Guardians know their child best: Strengths & interests
- Joint planning with guardians (& child): Build trust & mutual understanding
- Shared goals & strategies

Working Together: Multi-Professionals

The role of the Special education teacher

- A link between the child, guardian and professionals
- Early identification and intervention
- Co-teaching and modelling the practices
- Leadership role in planning, training and developing

Why This Matters?

- Sense of belonging
- Self worth: Attendance in society
- Improved employment opportunities
- Reduced risk of social exclusion
- Well-being

When talent is not recognised, an individual & society loses valuable potential



Thank You.



eduna finland
TOGETHER FOR INCLUSION