



Information for parents about preschools in Kópavogur

Preschool is the first school level

The preschool is the first school level in the school system and is for children under the age of six, for compulsory education according to the law on preschool education no. 90/2008. Preschools care for the well-being and education of preschool children, by the guardian request and in accordance with the law until the children begin primary school.

Local government is responsible for the operation of the preschools, but the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the publication and evaluation of the national curriculum.

Preschools are for all children, regardless of mental- and psychical well-being, culture and beliefs.

According to the law of preschool education, the primary objectives of education and teaching are:

- To monitor and promote comprehensive development of children in close collaboration with the children's guardians
- To provide systematic language stimulation and promote appropriate language skills in Icelandic
- To nurture children's intellectual, physical and over-all well-being in accordance with their individual needs in order to enjoy their childhood
- To promote open-mindedness and ethical awareness of the children
- To lay the foundation for children to become independent, active and responsible participants in a democratic and ever-changing community
- To cultivate children's abilities to be expressive and creative for the purpose of strengthening their identity, health awareness, security and competence for human interaction.



Preschools

Kópavogsbær operates in total 23 preschools, thereof are 19 preschools public, two are private

and two are service operated. An overview of the preschools are on the municipality's website, <https://www.kopavogur.is/is/ibuar/daggaesla-og-skolar/leikskolar>

In order for a child to attend a preschool in Kópavogur the guardians need to have a domicile in Kópavogur. Applying for a preschool is done through the municipality's website, [https://thjonustugatt.kopavogur.is/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fMyCases.aspx](https://thjonustugatt.kopavogur.is/login.aspx? returnUrl=%2fMyCases.aspx).

You can get assistance in filling out the electronic application at Kópavogur's helpdesk located to Digranesvegur 1, Telephone: 441 0000.

Legal guardians select one preschool as their first choice and four others as back-up. Children are generally offered to attend the preschool of choice. Children are listed on the waiting list by age



but not after the application date and there is a separate waiting list for each preschool. The main allocation time of a preschool place is in spring and autumn. It varies between years of how young the children are accepted into the preschool. A Departmental representative has a telephone consultation every weekday (except Wednesdays) between 11:00-12:00.

For information about preschool fees please visit the municipality's website, <https://www.kopavogur.is/is/ibuar/daggaesla-og-skolar/leikskolar>

The preschool fee is determined by the child's residence period. Kópavogsbær subsidizes all preschool fees. Included in the fee is education and care of the child, breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshment. Also included is support and special education if needed.

There is no requirement for residence in Kópavogur for the private preschools. An application for those preschools should be directed directly to them and they also give information about their fees. Kópavogsbær also subsidizes the fees in private preschools.

The staff of the preschool department at Kópavogsbær oversees the supervision and policy formulation of all the preschools in Kópavogur.

The preschools in Kópavogur are open between the hours of 07:30-16:30, the guardians negotiate how many hours a day the child will attend the preschool, but it can be from 4 to 9 hours per day.

A child care agreement is made between the preschool and guardians. When the child begins attending the preschool a mutual term of notice is one month and is decided on the first or fifteenth day of each month. With the signing of the residence agreement, the guardians confirm that they have familiarized themselves with the tariffs and the rules of the preschool. If guardians owe three months or more they will receive a term of notice from the preschool.

In all preschools in Kópavogur the focus is on building a good partnership with all guardians with the children's welfare in mind. The partnership is based on equality where the guardians are specialists in their children's lives and the preschool staff are the specialists in the educational environment of young children. The strengths of each preschool community are involved in diverse group of guardians and teachers. Countless opportunities are available to enable and exploit the power of such collaboration. Every preschool has elected parents committee and parents' association.

All preschools operate under the law of preschool education no. 90/2008 and the national curriculum. Each preschool have, however, the flexibility to develop and apply different approaches to their professional practice. Learning in preschools takes place through play and creative work in which children enjoy diverse educational advantages. All preschools have a curriculum. Annually, the preschools make a work schedule and the parents committee evaluates the schedule and the pre-school committee to approves them.

An adjustment period is expected at the beginning of the child's attendance in preschool and guardians support the child when they take their first steps into a new environment. The guidelines for this adjustment period is decided by each preschool. An interpreter is provided if the guardians do not speak Icelandic or use sign language.

The preschool should provide a foundation for the Icelandic language of children with a different mother tongue than Icelandic and introduce them Icelandic community. The preschool is also designed to support and empower the guardians to use and maintain the mother tongue of the children and respect their cultural origins.

Preschools are closed during the summer for four weeks. The guardians can be a part of the decision on when the preschools close during the summer by completing a survey.

The preschools are closed for five working days per year due to staff organization days. Every fourth year, the Director of each preschool can apply for an extra organizational day in conjunction with education trips abroad.

The preschools are closed on legal holidays.

Day care parents

Children from 6 months of age can attend day-care. Day-care parents are self-employed, but Kópavogsbær oversees the licensing and performs legal supervision of the activity as well as provides counselling to both day-care parents and guardians. Day care parents themselves oversee registration and enrolment of children and provide information on fees and expenses. Kópavogsbær provides a financial contribution for children attending day-care. Information on day-care parents and their operations are on the website of the Kópavogsbær, <https://www.kopavogur.is/is/ibuar/daggaesla-og-skolar/dagforeldrar>

