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*Översatt från svenska till engelska*

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# Pre-school in the municipality of Västervik



VÄSTERVIKS  
KOMMUN

## **Welcome to the pre-school in the municipality of Västervik!**

In this leaflet we have gathered information about Swedish pre-school and pre-schools in Västervik's municipality. It contains basic information about how pre-school works and is addressed to those who are not familiar with Swedish pre-school.

### **What is pre-school and how is it governed?**

Pre-school should be a fun, safe and educational place for all children who attend. Children should be given the opportunity to develop and learn through play, exploration and creativity, on their own or in a group and together with adults. Pre-school should lay the foundation for learning both now and in the future.

Pre-school is governed by the School Act and the curriculum for the pre-school. Pre-school is a place of education and teaching. Pre-school has qualified staff who plan educational teaching that allows children to create, learn and explore.

Pre-school teachers lead the teaching in children's development and learning with the support of additional staff.

## Pre-school values

The pre-school should be based on democratic foundations where all children can experience both their own intrinsic value and that of others.

Activities in the pre-school should be characterised by pedagogical approaches where care, attention, socialisation and learning together form a whole. In the first instance, this means that the pre-school exists to serve your child, even though it should also make it possible for you to work or study.

The curriculum states that play is an important part of a child's development and learning. The staff should take into account the child's views, interests and experiences when planning their daily work. Children should be able to express themselves in different ways, both on their own and together with others in activities such as song and music, art, dance, drama, speech, and writing.

Children should have the opportunity of developing their cultural identity. Language development of the child is an important area in the pre-school. The pre-school should ensure that children with a mother tongue other than Swedish, receive the opportunity of developing both their Swedish language and their mother tongue.

The pre-school should aim to counteract traditional gender patterns and gender roles. All girls and boys should have the same opportunities to develop without limits.

## **Welcome to a pre-school in the municipality of Västervik!**

In Västervik there are both municipal and independent pre-schools. Independent pre-schools must follow the same rules as municipal pre-schools.

You apply for a place in pre-school for your child through the municipality's e-service.

If you are a new arrival, you will be assisted by the new arrival co-ordinator to apply for a place in the pre-school. The co-ordinator also helps you to choose a pre-school.

### **The Swedish pre-school**

The pre-school is voluntary and for children between the ages of 1 and 5. After pre-school children attend pre-school class, elementary school and then high school.

Most children in Sweden attend pre-school. Here the children learn through play together with other children. For example, they get to sing, paint, dance, write and talk. They speak both their mother tongue and Swedish. Letting your child go to pre-school is a way to prepare your child for school.

## **When can the child go to pre-school?**

To begin with, all children have the right to attend pre-school three hours every day from August of the year the child turns 3 years old.

In addition, children may be entitled to go to pre-school from 1 year of age, but only when you as a parent work, are actively looking for work, studying or are on parental leave with younger siblings.

If you are actively looking for work or are a parent with a younger sibling, your child has the right to be at pre-school 15 hours a week.

Children may also be entitled to attend pre-school if the child has special needs because of the family's situation or if the child has physical, mental or other reasons for needing special support in his development.

## **How long do you have to wait for the child to start pre-school?**

Pre-school should be offered within 4 months of submitting an application, if the child has reached the age of 1 year and if the other conditions are met.

We can offer a place at one of the municipality's pre-schools. This means that it is not certain that the child will be accommodated at the pre-school that you want within 4 months. If you refuse the offer you receive, you may have to wait longer for a new place.

The municipality should try to ensure that your child goes to a pre-school as close to your home as possible.

## **Introduction to pre-school**

When the child starts pre-school, as a parent, you should stay and participate in the activities together with your child in order for the child to feel safe and get to know the staff and the other children. During the introduction, you as a parent will also see how the pre-school works.

## How much does preschool cost?

If the child is between 1 and 3 years old, there is a fee to attend pre-school. If the child is over 3 years of age and attends pre-school for more than three hours a day there is also a fee. How much it costs depends on your family income.

From August the year the child turns 3, it is free to attend the municipality pre-school three hours a day.

When applying for a place at a pre-school for your child you are obliged to provide information on your family's total income. This is to ensure you pay the correct fee for your child's pre-school place. If you do not declare your income, you will be charged the highest fee.

The municipality of Västervik has a maximum rate. This means that there is a limit to how much you pay for the pre-school.

## Multilingualism in pre-school

Pre-school supports the development of the child's mother tongue in various ways. For example, by focusing attention on languages, cultures and countries. It is important to show that all languages are equally valuable. The child should be given the opportunity to use all their languages.

The pre-school should ensure that children with a mother tongue other than Swedish, receive the opportunity of developing both their Swedish language and their mother tongue. However, in pre-school there is no right to mother tongue education. Mother tongue education can be applied for when a child begins elementary school.

Research shows that children who are allowed to develop their mother tongue also become more proficient in learning Swedish. It is therefore important that you use your mother tongue as family when talking to the child.

## **How can you and the pre-school work together for the best interests of the child?**

Parents are important to pre-schools. The curriculum states that the work of the pre-school should be carried out in close and confidential cooperation with the home.

This is why it is important that you talk with the staff if there is anything you are unsure of. A good opportunity for doing this is when leaving and collecting your child, at this point, the school staff should tell you what sort of day your child has had. You can also tell the staff if something special has happened that it might be good for them to know about.

There is also the possibility to book a meeting to talk to the staff about how your child is settling in and developing and how preschool works. Ask the staff if you would like to book such a meeting.

## **Some examples of what you as a parent should consider**

- You need to submit a schedule for the intended times your child will be attending pre-school. You do this either digitally via IST or submit a note to the staff at the pre-school.
- If there are any changes in pick-up and drop-off times, you need to inform the pre-school as soon as possible.
- When your child is ill, the child should be kept at home and you should notify the pre-school according to their pre-school policy. Ask the staff when the child can return to pre-school.
- If you have a holiday, the child should be at home with you.
- Pre-school has outdoor activities all year round (even when it rains and snows). Your child therefore needs suitable clothing for both indoors and outdoors.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding your child talk to the pre-school staff.

## **We welcome you and your child to the preschool!**

### **Contact Us**

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