

PRESCHOOLS IN GARÐABÆR





Preschool is the first level of Iceland's education system and is for children under the compulsory school age. At the request of the parents, the preschool contributes to the child's upbringing, education and care. Preschools must focus on the child's welfare and provide a healthy and stimulating pedagogical environment and safe conditions for learning and play.

Each preschool must issue its own curriculum based on the national curriculum issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Preschool employees are bound by confidentiality.

LIST OF TARIFFS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

Attendance fees at preschools vary by municipality. Minimum daily attendance is 4 hours, with a maximum of 9½ hours. A special fee is paid for each ½ hour in excess of 8 hours, as well as for meals. **Garðabær's tariff can be seen at www.gardabaer.is.**

Garðabær's preschools do not close for the summer but children are expected to take four consecutive weeks of vacation during the summer. School administrators will request information from parents about the time of the child's summer vacation. Preschools are open from 7:30 to 17:00. Preschools are closed on 24th and 31st of December.

Preschools are closed for 4 teacher preparation days per winter, on the same days as the municipality's primary schools. Parents are informed about these days in the autumn. A special application is required for a child's transfer between preschools in different municipalities.

ENROLMENT

Applications for preschool enrolment can be found on Garðabær's residents' portal, minn.gardabaer.is. Applicants register with an electronic certificate or an Íslykill identification.



ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission is in line with the waiting list, where the oldest students (according to their personal identification number) are enrolled first. If there are no openings in the schools selected as 1st or 2nd choice, applicants are offered another available opening. Applicants can apply for priority admission to preschool on the portal minn.gardabaer.is.

The child must be domiciled in Garðabær in order to be eligible for preschool admission. Residents outside Garðabær can apply for preschool and go on a waiting list if they are about to move to Garðabær.

CO-OPERATION WITH PARENTS

Parents must safeguard the interests of their children and maintain close contact with preschool staff. They have the right to receive information about the care and education provided and their children's situation.

When a child is admitted to a preschool, its parents are invited to a meeting where they are introduced to the preschool's activities. Parents must expect some time for the child to adjust to the preschool and feel secure in their new environment, and for the parents to familiarise themselves with the work of the preschool.

There are two annual parent-teacher meetings where parents are informed about the child's education, and where the child's growth and progress is discussed. These conversations are an important venue for parents and preschool teachers to discuss the child's strengths and weaknesses, make plans for the future and gain insights into the child's experiences in each place, the home and the school. Parents are encouraged to participate in preschool activities and preschools have a parents' council and parents' association.



SPECIAL SERVICES

Children who are in need of special assistance and education, as determined by qualified practitioners, are entitled to receive such services within the preschool. The services are to be provided under specialist supervision as decided by the headteacher and the specialist services, in consultation with parents. Garðabær's school office has a support department that provides early intervention and support for preschools and parents.

Information disclosure Garðabær and its institutions strive to protect the personal data of individuals and ensure their reliability, confidentiality and security during processing. Preschools have a duty of confidentiality and employees sign a confidentiality agreement. As prescribed by law, information on children is passed between educational levels, and parents are informed of what information follows the child.

INTERPRETATION SERVICE

In the case of parents who are not native speakers of Icelandic or who communicate in sign language, the school should endeavor to provide them with interpretation of any vital information.

Preschools operated by Garðabær

Akrar, Línakur 2

Bæjarból, Bæjarbraut

Holtakot, Breiðamýri

Hæðarból, Hæðarbraut

Kirkjuból, Kirkjulundur

Krakkakot, Skólavegur

Lundaból, Hofstaðabraut

Sunnuhvoll, Vífilsstaðir

Urriðaholtsskóli, Vinarstræti

Flataskóli, department for 4 and 5 year-olds, at Vífilsstaðavegur

Privately operated preschools

The International School of Iceland, Langalína 8

Hjalli Method Primary School, Vífilsstaðavegur 123

Ásar, Bergás 1

Hnoðraholt, Vífilsstaðavegur 123

Litlu Ásar, Vífilsstaðavegur 118

Sjáláland, Vesturbrú 7

Information on preschools in Garðabær can be found on the municipality's website, gardabaer.is.