

Fálkaborg Pre-school – introduction

Fálkaborg Pre-school at no. 9 Fálkabakki is run by Reykjavík. The school is situated in the outskirts of Reykjavík City, only a short distance from the pure nature of the valley Elliðaárdalur, one of the city's outdoor areas. Fálkaborg is still largely run according to the ideology embraced by Gyða Sigvaldadóttir, the school's first headmaster, which has always emphasised by the importance of teaching children how to treat and enjoy nature, to give them the opportunity to enjoy playing games of their own creation, and get to know their cultural heritage through song and story.

Work is organised in the way that the children's time is divided equally between freedom of choice and group activity. In group activity the children remain in their fixed group for the entire year even for the entire duration of their pre-schooling, under the permanent supervision of the same teacher, if possible. Group activity is where all organised teaching, walks, outdoor activity and creative playing takes place.

Freedom of choice gives the children the opportunity to select their material and area of play within their own department. Playing material is organised in such a way that the children can enjoy themselves in a creative way, and overloading the pre-school with toys is avoided. Toys are at all times considered as the school's educational tools.

The school emphasises teaching respect for the environment and children are therefore taught the necessity of recycling, for instance through the recycling of paper etc.

Children are taken on walks around the valley of Elliðaárdalur outdoors area, where they are given the opportunity to observe and investigate the local vegetation, water, animal life and beauty of nature. The children choose their own area in the valley, to which they come often and can observe seasonal changes.

Children have their own patch in the school for growing potatoes and other vegetables.

It is the policy of Fálkaborg Pre-school that the children eat wholesome and nutritious Icelandic food, and among other things it is emphasised that the children get to know the consumption of vegetables.

The importance of employees as role models of considerate behaviour towards people and nature is emphasised. Importance is also attached to employees participating actively in the children's games and work.