



INSTRUCTION PREPARING FOR BASIC EDUCATION

WELCOME TO SCHOOL!

Your child will be starting his/her school in Tampere in preparatory instruction for basic education. **The purpose of preparatory instruction is to have the pupil learn basic Finnish language skills, become familiar with the Finnish school and develop his/her study skills.**

The schools of preparatory instruction in Tampere are:

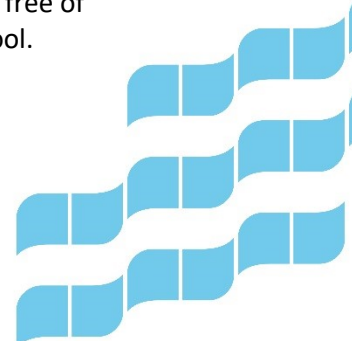
- **AHVENISJÄRVI, Korkeakoulunkatu 6, University of Tampere, Konetalo, 3.-4.floors** (grades 1.-6.)
- **ETELÄ-HERVANTA, Mekaniikanpolku 9** (grades 1.-9.)
- **HATANPÄÄ, Haapakuja 2** (grades 1.-6.) **ja Koivistontie 31** (grades 7.-9.)
- **JUHANNUSKYLÄ, Postikatu 2** (grades 1.-6.) **ja Rautatienkatu 3-5** (grades 7.-9.)
- **LIELAHTI, Lielahdenkatu 15** (grades 1.-9.)
- **PELTOLAMMI, Säästäjänkatu 16** (grades 1.-6.)
- **SAMPO, Pellervo schoolhouse, Sämpsyykkä 1** (grades 1.-3.), **SAMPO, Sairaalankatu 6** (grades 1.-6.) and **SAMPO, Teiskontie 16** (grades 7.-9.)
- **TESOMA, Kohmankaari 11** (grades 1.-9.) and **Kalkun koulutalo (Kalkku schoolhouse), Kalkunkatu 34** (grades 1.-3.)
- **VUORES, Rautiolanrinne 2** (grades 1.-9.)
- **WIVI LÖNN, Hallituskatu 26** (grades 1.-6.)

Registration for preparatory instruction takes place on the preparatory instruction page:

www.tampere.fi > search words: *valmistava opetus* or *Preparatory instruction*.

In addition to Finnish, other subjects taught in preparatory instruction are mathematics, environmental studies (biology and geography), history, music, physical education, arts and crafts, visual arts and English (from year 3 onwards). Religion is not taught during preparatory instruction. As their Finnish language skills improve, the pupils can also take part in lessons in other classes. Pupils have around 24 - 30 lessons per week, according to the grade.

Teaching occurs in small groups that usually consist of at most ten students. A **personal study plan** is drafted for every pupil and it will accompany the pupil to the next school. Teaching is free of charge. The pupil will receive a warm meal, as well as books and exercise books at school. The pupil will receive a free bus card for travel to and from school if the journey is long enough. The home municipality also organises school health care (school nurse, school doctor, dentist).





Educational services

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Preparatory instruction usually lasts for one school year, whereafter the pupil moves to a school in his/her pupil catchment area. Preparatory instruction assesses the pupil's skills and the grade level of basic education to which the pupil will move. If necessary, it may be sensible to continue school one year below the pupil's age level, to allow sufficient time for the language skills development needed for learning.

A child's spoken language skills develop quickly, but the conceptual language skills required for learning take several years to develop. Using and understanding Finnish language text and vocabulary fluently, as well as learning good writing skills, may take between five and seven years. Therefore, the pupil also needs support and Finnish language teaching from the perspective of a different language learner when studying in the basic education class. This teaching is called ***Finnish as a second language studies (S2)***. Besides the S2 studies a pupil may receive remedial teaching in different subjects, if necessary.

Native language instruction is also very important in Finland. It supports all learning and also Finnish language development. Even if you speak your native language at home, it is important to learn reading and writing skills in your own language as well. Versatile language skills will also be useful in your future working life.

There are two native language lessons per week, and there must be at least six children in the study group. The class can be held in a school other than the child's own. Once one starts studying, attendance is compulsory. Further information on tuition and enrolment: www.tampere.fi > search words: *oma äidinkieli* or *Native language*.

Information on the Finnish school:

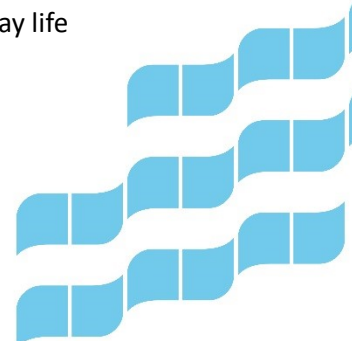
Compulsory education in Finland lasts until the age of 18. School attendance starts in the year the child turns seven. Grades 1-6 are part of primary school and grades 7-9 are part of secondary school. In Tampere all comprehensive schools provide the same kind of education, but in some schools there is weighted or different language instruction. Almost all schools are run by the city. There are few private schools in Finland. Basic education must be completed before you can move on with your studies. After comprehensive school, about half of the pupils go on to upper secondary school and half to vocational institutions. Admission to these schools is dependent on the average grade in the ninth year of comprehensive school.

Collaboration between school and home:

Collaboration between parents and teachers in education is considered important. The teacher invites the parents to an **assessment discussion**, to report on the pupil's progress in studies. The school also organises **parents' events** (parents' evenings) where general school matters are discussed and where parents can meet the teacher. If parents have questions about school matters, they can go to the school and meet the teacher or principal and agree on the appointment time. The schools use the **Wilma Student Information System**, through which the parents obtain information on the pupil's studies. The teacher can use Wilma to send messages to parents about various events, parties and excursions organised by the school. Parents can also use Wilma to send messages and questions to the teacher.

Important persons in the school, besides the teacher:

- **Principal** – school's director and teachers' supervisor
- **School curator** – social worker who helps and advises in problem situations
- **School psychologist** – helps pupil with learning and various problems in everyday life
- **Guidance counsellor** - guides pupils in secondary school in their studies and in planning for further studies





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3 (3) englanti

- **School health nurse** – a nurse at school to whom a pupil can go in the case of illness or accident. **The school health nurse performs a health check on the new pupils of Tampere.** A vaccination card must be brought to the school health nurse in the context of the health check.

