

# Early childhood education and care in Sweden

In Sweden, all children are considered to be entitled to a child care place. For over three decades, child care has been an integral part of the Swedish welfare state and of most families' everyday lives. In 1998 the government moved responsibility for child care from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to the Ministry of Education and Research as part of an effort to reform and expand early childhood education and care. The *Curriculum for Preschool* was released in August of that year and preschool became "the first step in the education system for children". In 2003, four- and five-year-olds became entitled to 525 free hours of child care a year. In short, Sweden continues its commitment to an ECEC system that is designed to meet the twin aims of supporting children's development, education and well-being and helping parents to balance parenthood and employment or study.

This ISSUE File highlights useful online resources detailing and discussing Sweden's highly developed ECEC system. Material is divided into four sections. Entries are organized from the most recent to the least recent.

Tue, 05/24/2011

## Tags:

quality <sup>[1]</sup>

public management <sup>[2]</sup>

curricula and pedagogy <sup>[3]</sup>

## Documents from the Swedish government

### Overviews and fact sheets

An overview of the Swedish education system <sup>[4]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2009

Interactive diagram (Flash required)

From preschool pedagogy to nanotechnology: Education and research in Sweden <sup>[5]</sup>

Source: Government Offices of Sweden, 2009

Document in pdf (28 pp.)

The politics of pre-school: Intentions and decisions underlying the emergence and growth of the Swedish pre-school <sup>[5]</sup>

by Barbara Martin Korpi

Source: Government of Sweden. Ministry of Education and Research, 2007

Report in pdf (88 pp.)

Preschool is for your child: A brochure about the preschool curriculum <sup>[6]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2007

Document in pdf (12 pp.)

Strategy to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Sweden <sup>[5]</sup>

Source: Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, 2004

Fact sheet in pdf (4 pp.)

### Curriculum documents

General guidelines and comments for quality in leisure-time centres <sup>[7]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2007

Document in pdf (44 pp.)

Curriculum for pre-school (Lpfö 98) <sup>[8]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 1998 (revised 2006)

Document in pdf (17 pp.)

Curriculum for the Preschool Lpfö 98 Revised 2010 <sup>[9]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2011 (revised 2010)

Document in pdf (20 pp.)

Curriculum for the compulsory school system, the pre-school class and the leisure-time centre (Lpo 94) <sup>[10]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 1994 (revised 2006)

Document in pdf (21 pp.)

### Statistical and evaluative reports

Ten years after the preschool reform: A national evaluation of the Swedish pre-school <sup>[11]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2008

Report in pdf (36 pp.)

Five years with the maximum fee <sup>[12]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2007

Report in pdf (32pp.)

Descriptive data on pre-school activities, school-age childcare, schools and adult education in Sweden 2006 <sup>[13]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2006

Report in pdf (162 pp.)

Pre-school in transition: A national evaluation of the Swedish pre-school <sup>[14]</sup>

Source: Skolverket: Swedish National Agency for Education, 2004

Full report in pdf (46 pp.)

Mon, 11/23/2009

**Tags:**

public management <sup>[2]</sup>

curricula and pedagogy <sup>[3]</sup>

## Reports from the OECD Thematic Review of ECEC

Early childhood education and care country profiles - Sweden <sup>[15]</sup>

Source: OECD, 2006

Profile from Starting Strong II in pdf (7 pp.)

Curricula and pedagogies in early childhood education and care <sup>[16]</sup>

Source: OECD, 2004

Full report in pdf (34pp.)

Early childhood education and care in Sweden <sup>[17]</sup>

by Barbara Martin Korpi

Source: OECD, 2000

Conference paper in pdf (9pp.)

OECD country note: Early childhood education and care policy in Sweden <sup>[18]</sup>

SOURCE: OECD, 1999

Full report in pdf (48 pp.)

OECD background report: Early childhood education and care policy in Sweden <sup>[19]</sup>

by Lars Gunnarsson, Barbara Martin Korpi & Ulla Nordenstam.

Source: Government of Sweden & OECD, 1999

Full report in pdf (84 pp.)

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curricula and pedagogy <sup>[3]</sup>

**Taxonomy upgrade extras:**

Europe <sup>[20]</sup>

## Other selected research, overviews and media

### International and comparative research

Issues in education for children three to eight in six countries <sup>[21]</sup>

by Richard M. Clifford & Gisele M. Crawford

Source: FPG Child Development Institute, 2009

Report in pdf (8 pp.)

Promoting children's welfare in the Nordic countries <sup>[22]</sup>

by Hiilamo, Heikki

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Government of Finland

Report in pdf (88pp.)

Sustainable social policies in an era of globalization: Lessons from the Swedish case <sup>[23]</sup>

by Joakim Palme

Source: Social Policy Journal of New Zealand, Issue 32, 2007

Article in pdf (16 pp.)

What is good daycare? A Swedish perspective <sup>[24]</sup>

by Bengt-Erik Andersson

Source: Presentations from Plan-It Quality Conference, Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, 2005

Presentation slides in pdf (10pp.)

Skolverket: Continuous pedagogical monitoring in child care and school (Link is no longer available)

by Lars Ullén

Source: Child Care in a Changing World European conference, 2004

Speaking notes in pdf (2 pp.)

Consolidating early childhood education and care under the Ministry of Education and Science: A Swedish case study (UNESCO early childhood and family policy series no.6) <sup>[25]</sup>

by H. L. Taguchi & I. Munkamner

Source: United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization, 2003

Report in pdf (35 pp.)

A comparison of the national preschool curricula in Norway and Sweden <sup>[26]</sup>

by Marit Alvestad & Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson

Source: Early Childhood Research & Practice, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1999

Article in html

Report in pdf (70 pp.)

## Overviews from an international perspective

Profile in pdf (4 pp.)

Document in pdf (4 pp.)

[Article in html](#)

Article in html

## Media

Video (30 min.)

Tags:

curricula and pedagogy [3]

## Useful websites

Skolverket is the central administrative authority for the Swedish public school system including the preschool and school-age child care systems. Skolverket ensures that national targets for child care and the school system are achieved through development, research and evaluation. Skolverket's extensive English language website provides a wealth of information on the Swedish ECEC system.

The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for matters regarding education, including pre-school education and child care for school children, pre-school classes and compulsory education.

This website is part of Columbia University's Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies (last updated May 2008).

Tags:

### Taxonomy upgrade extras:

Europe [20]

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/quality> [2] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/8166> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/curricula-and-pedagogy> [4] <http://skolverket.skolverket.se/polopoly/utbsys-eng/> [5] <https://www.government.se/> [6] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1690> [7] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1810> [8] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1068> [9] <http://www.skolverket.se/om-skolverket/publicerat/visa-enskild-publication?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.s.kolverket.se%2Fwtpub%2Fws%2Fskolbok%2Fwpubext%2Ftrycksak%2FRecord%3Fk%3D2704> [10] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1070> [11] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=2136> [12] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1742> [13] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1705> [14] <http://www.skolverket.se/publikationer?id=1378> [15] <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/16/16/37423778.pdf> [16] <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/36/31672150.pdf> [17] <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/2/22/1917636e.pdf> [18] <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/52/31/2534972.pdf> [19] <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/48/17/2479039.pdf> [20] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/region/europe> [21] <https://www.fcd-us.org/assets/2016/04/Issues-in-Education-for-Children-Three-to-Eight-in-Six-Countries.pdf> [22] <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2009/04/Promoting%20Children's%20Welfare%20in%20the%20Nordic%20Countries.pdf> [23] <http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj32/32-pages-1-16.pdf> [24] <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/43881029/what-is-good-daycare-a-swedish-perspective-centre-of-> [25] <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001301/130135e.pdf> [26] <https://ecrp.illinois.edu/v1n2/alvestad.html> [27] <https://cpnrn.org/doc.cfm?doc=442&amp;amp;=en> [28] [https://archive.cupe.ca/updir/Public\\_profile\\_Sweden.pdf](https://archive.cupe.ca/updir/Public_profile_Sweden.pdf) [29] [http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba\\_Pubs/2008/Lessons\\_From\\_Sweden.pdf](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba_Pubs/2008/Lessons_From_Sweden.pdf) [30] <https://childcarecanada.org/node/1794> [31] <https://childcarecanada.org/node/2749> [32] <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/teachers-tv-how-do-they-do-it-in-sweden-6038930> [33] <http://www.skolverket.se/sb/d/190> [34] <https://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2063> [35] <http://www.childpolicyintl.org/countries/sweden.html>