

## Extended opening hours and round-the-clock care

The municipality must organize early childhood education provided for in the Early Childhood Education Act to the extent and in such ways as the need in the municipality requires. Daycare activities during the calendar year and opening hours per day must be arranged according to local needs. (Early Education Act, § 5)

Round-the-clock care is organized in the evenings, nights, weekends and on weekdays and public holidays in kindergartens or family day care. Round-the-clock care must be arranged to the extent necessary for a child who needs it due to the work or studies of a parent or other guardian. (Early Education Act, § 13)

In these guidelines, round-the-clock care refers to early childhood education services that are offered in the mornings before 5:00 a.m., in the evenings after 10:00 p.m. and at night, on weekends and/or on public holidays. Extended care (from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) is organized regionally. The family does not have a subjective right to extended care or round-the-clock care, but it is offered to the family for the need for round-the-clock care related to the guardians' paid work or contact studies (e.g. distance lectures, webinars and on-the-job learning periods).

Daycare as round-the-clock care is offered in Mustinlampi and Nilsiä kindergartens. Extended care and weekend care (from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) are offered in Petosenmutka, Maaninka and Juankoski kindergartens. Extended care is offered in each (6) daycare area. Maaninka, Juankoski and Nilsiä daycare centers cooperate in organizing day care. If care has been booked from the unit in question only for individual children, care can be provided from another unit.

As a general rule, early childhood education may last no more than ten hours continuously, with exceptions round-the-clock care, where the daily duration is in accordance with the child's needs due to the work or studies of the parent or other guardian (Early Education Act, § 9). During the day in the kindergarten, the child is offered one warm meal and the necessary snacks (morning, afternoon and evening snack). Exceptionally, another warm meal is offered to a child whose length of early childhood education day requires it. Dinner is offered to a child whose early childhood education day lasts longer than 6:00 p.m.

Things to note about the care times and informing about the care times.

The bring-in and pick-up times for your child must be informed electronically one week in advance by 24:00 on the Sunday of the week before the care week, so that employee resources can be planned and implemented as well as possible from the point of view of the children's interests. Care needs and care time changes that are informed later, cannot be committed to. These guidelines aim to ensure the number of personnel in accordance with the Early Childhood Education Act.

Due to employee resources, care cancellations must also be reported to the daycare center immediately. It is hoped that the guardians' holidays and days off are also days off for the child, in the best interest of the child.

If a child who needs extended or round-the-clock care is in care on the guardians' day off, the child uses early childhood education services during the day care's normal opening hours, i.e. between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The child should have an average of two days off per week. Evening, night and weekend care is not offered on the guardian's days off, holidays and sick leave.

It is the responsibility of the employees and the daycare manager to review the lengths of the childcare times and periods and, if necessary, discuss them with the guardians if they raise concerns about the child's ability to cope.

The child can be brought to care at 5.00 a.m. at the earliest. Children who do not stay in night care must be picked up by 10:00 p.m. When the child has been in night care, the guardians must pick them up from care by 4.00 p.m. A child whose guardian does not have time to pick up by 10:00 p.m., but who has not been at work at night, must be picked up by 10:00 a.m. in the morning.

If the child's care needs change, efforts are made to arrange a place for the child in another day care unit or care group.

Early childhood education services