



Velkomin í  
Heilsuleikskólann Fífusali

## Dear pre-schooler and family!

We are happy to have you in our group and hope that you are going to be happy with us.

All the most important information about live and work in Fífusalir you can find in our homepage. We encourage you to read carefully our school curriculum and this brochure before your first visit, but we will discuss further when you arrive.

Looking forward to seeing you.



### Thinking of children like snowflakes

A small amount of snow falls on the ground.  
Another snowflake falls on its side.  
Another snowflake falls on its side.  
Another falls and many follow.  
Each one is different, has its own shape and size,  
But what a beauty in each one!  
They involve so much mystery.  
We have to make sure that everyone can glitter.  
One is not more beautiful than another.  
They are all unique, special and magnificent.

Cynthia R. Sanchez

## About the school

Fífusalir Health pre-school is situated at Salavegur 4 in Kópavogur and is a six-departments pre-school. The house is on one floor, the main area is 776 m<sup>2</sup>, of which there are 445 m<sup>2</sup> of playing area for 106 children simultaneously for a 6 - 9 hour stay. The outside area is 3325 m<sup>2</sup> and is exceptionally well designed. The house is divided in two, Gljúfur were the youngest children are in three groups called Lind, Lækur and Laut. The older children are in Gil and there are also three groups, Hóll, Hlíð and Hæð.

## Daily schedule in Fífusalir

All preschool work involves extensive and integrated learning, whether it be daily practices, such as mealtimes and going to the lavatory, or systematic work organized by teachers. Children discover and learn from everything they do both at play and in their daily work inside and outside, with the support and encouragement of the adults and in collaboration with other children.

According to the National Curriculum Guide for Preschools (2011), the fields of study of pre-school are:

- Literacy and communication
- Health and well-being
- Sustainability and science
- Creativity and culture

Daily work is shaped by these fields of study, but at each moment of the day many fields of study are intertwined into holistic learning.

Every day it is suggested that the children have a good time for free play, both indoors and outdoors. All children go every week for time in art / creativity and sports. In these times, they are in small groups under professional guidance. In addition, children regularly go on field trips around the neighbourhood, but the pre-school's immediate surroundings offers countless fun trails for a safe footpath hikes.



## Motto of Fífusalir

**RESPECT** - We emphasize that children are respectful and considerate of each other, thus enhancing understanding of their feelings and needs as well as others. Good cooperation, trust and mutual respect between children, staff, home, and school is established.

**DISCOVER** - The child gains experience in game discovery without teachers providing them with solutions. The end point does not matter but the lessons the child learns along the way. It is important to recognize the children's experience, without judging it.

**COOPERATION** - It is emphasized that children and teachers learn to be flexible, helpful and work together, and follow through with their decisions. Teachers are role models for the children who encourage them to cooperate.

## Pre-school staff

**The pre-school principal** is the head of the pre-school and is responsible for the educational work and the operation of the pre-school. Her superior is the head of the pre-school department of the Kópavogur School of Education.

**The assistant principal** is the deputy principal and is the deputy to the principal with the management of the pre-school.

**The head of department** is responsible for the work and organization of the department, the group of children and she is also responsible for the parent cooperation in the department.

**The Special education manager** is in charge of special education and special support in the pre-school. She provides counselling to parents and child support staff within the pre-school. The preschool specialist team consists of a psychologists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and special education counsellors through the Kópavogur Preschool Department.

**Preschool teachers and assisting staff** works in collaboration with the head of department to carry out the education of the department.

**Preschool teachers**, development coaches and department staff work in the departments for the special education of individual children.

**Kitchen staff** takes care of food preparation, preparation of menus and shopping and food for the pre-school.

*The pre-school staff is bound by a duty of confidentiality regarding all the knowledge they receive in the work on the issues of children and parents. The duty of confidentiality remains, however, when employees leave.*

*We ask parents to show other parents and children the courtesy of not discussing issues concerning other children outside of the preschool. Mutual confidentiality is important to all children and parents and increases cohesion within the pre-school.*

### **Practical information for parents**

- No bags are allowed to be stored in the pre-school. Please put your children's clothes in their assigned compartment in the vestibule and take the bags home with you.
- Please, take your child all the way into their department and say your goodbyes there.
- It is not possible to stay inside after being home sick. If the child cannot participate in all our daily activities, it should stay at home.
- Please let the head teacher of the department know if any circumstances change in the family.
- You should report your child's sickness or absence before 9 am. At 9 am our scheduled activities start and therefore good to know how many children we have in the department that day.
- We don't greet any children between 11 am and 12.30 pm. At that time, we have lunch and resting period and the children in the department need peace and quiet during that time.
- Please check regularly in your child's box of clothes. We don't have a lot of extra clothes and we might have to call you up if the child needs more clothes. It is not good for the child to be in its onesie for a long time in the pre-school.
- When celebrating the child's birthday, it's an option to bring popcorn, pretzels, or fruits. We recommend fruits for the younger children.
- It is important to let a member of staff know when you pick up your child. If no teacher from your child's department is around, find another staff member and let them know you are leaving with the child.
- It is not desirable that children under 12 years old pick up children in preschool

**Hope we will have a good cooperation,**  
Staff members of Fífusalir

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## Participation adaptation

Starting a pre-school is a new experience for the child and its parents. It is important that good cooperation is achieved immediately between the parents and the pre-school. We offer participatory adaptation, which is based on the theory that children and parents learn to be in pre-school together. Building a common foundation (security and trust between parents, children, and the pre-school). Participation adaptation is designed so that the parent transmits a sense of security and curiosity to the child. **Confident parents = confident children.** By having the parents participate from day one, they gain security about the departments day schedule and what happens in the pre-school. They also get to know the teachers, other children, and parents.

### Day 1

Parents and children show up at 9 am. Parents and children get a tag with their names on for everyone to get to know each other's names (It can be wise to put the tag on the child's back). Daily activities continue like every other day, but parents take care of every physical need the child has. We show the parents how we do things here, but we do not do the work for them. The parents go in with the children to rest. After resting period and then having some bread everyone goes out to play. Day 1 finishes at 3 pm.

### Day 2

Day 2 is like day 1 except we also go outside before lunch and the staff members go with the children to resting period. Meanwhile the parents go to a meeting (a presentation) on practical things, rules, culture, and diet.

### Day 3

Day 3 is like day 2 but parents leave while the child is outside playing. Parents come back before the child wakes up and are with the child until 3 pm.

### Day 4

Child shows up on the assigned time. It is good for the child if that day could be a shorter day. Days 4 and 5 can be difficult but the group is usually feeling more comfortable after 7-10 days

**If there is anything you would like to talk about, do not hesitate to talk to the child's head teacher and together you find a solution.**

### What you need to bring to participation adaptation

- Pacifier and or a teddy bear for rest time
- Extra clothes for the clothe box in the vestibule
- Clothes for playing outside, depending of the weather



### Extra clothes for the clothes box

- pants, sweater, underwear/onesie, socks (2 pairs), pantyhose, T-shirt

### Clothes in the assigned compartment

- aarm overall, warm boots, rain clothes, rain boots, warm sweater, warm cap, mittens (2 pairs), warm socks/woolen socks

It is important to label all clothing with the child's name. You need to check your child's compartment at the end of each day and take dirty clothes home to wash. On Friday you must empty the compartment and take all clothes and shoes home.

### Parents interview

During the school year, one parents interview is offered around the child's birthday. The child's well-being, development and needs are discussed. The child's health book is reviewed, among other things. Parents can always request interviews if they feel the need to do so.

**Adaptation interviews** for new children are held about a month after a child starts.

### Assessment of children's education:

**HLJÓM-2:** Screen to explore the sound system awareness of the oldest children's pre-school. The results of this survey provide an indication of how reading learning will proceed; therefore, work has been carried out systematically after the results of the last school year. HLJÓM-2 is based on seven different projects submitted in the fall. The projects are related to rhyme, syllabus, sound analysis, compound words, multilingual words, word-parts deletion and audio connection.

**EFI-2:** It is offered to all children in the fourth year in Fífusalir, a game-based screening that examines the child's language comprehension and expression.

**The Child's Health Book:** When a child studies at the health pre-school, it receives a book that is monitored and recorded in a variety of information about the child. These include health, height, weight, social skills, endurance, and general knowledge of e.g. colours and shapes. Conclusions are registered in the book twice over the school year, at the child's birthday and six months later. This record allows you to closely monitor the child's developmental progress.

**One smile can change darkness to daylight at an instance!**

We look forward to participating in the adventure of the pre-school with you.