

Appendix 2. Task descriptions of student welfare actors in pre-primary education

This document describes the tasks of the following student welfare actors in pre-primary education:

- 1) Director of Early Childhood Education, 2) teacher (Early Childhood Education and Care, ECEC), 3) special needs teacher (ECEC), 4) student welfare psychologist, 5) student welfare social worker, 6) public health nurse.

1. DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Organises and manages the work of unit-specific student welfare in pre-primary education
- Convenes the communal student welfare group (YHR) twice per year and acts as its chair
- Responsible for implementing the student welfare plan in their own unit and for making the necessary unit-specific adjustments

2. TEACHER (ECEC)

- Member of the communal student welfare group (YHR)
- Observes the comprehensive growth, development, learning and wellbeing of children in pre-primary education with the team.
- Responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating the pre-primary education team's pedagogy and welfare work and development of its work
- Cooperates with guardians on education
- Handles multidisciplinary partnerships
- When necessary, submits child protection or police reports in accordance with the Child Welfare Act
- May consult with student welfare professionals on a child's individual need for student welfare or establish a multidisciplinary group of experts
- Under the Student Welfare Act (section 16), the teacher is required to refer a child to student welfare services when necessary

3. (SENIOR) SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHER (ECEC)

- Member of their unit's communal student welfare groups (YHR)
- Works in the pre-primary education groups with the groups' personnel
- Cooperates with guardians with pre-primary school-age children, student welfare personnel and other experts

4. STUDENT WELFARE PSYCHOLOGIST

The **student welfare psychologist** is an expert in mental wellbeing and learning psychology. In accordance with the Student Welfare Act (1287/2013), psychologist services refer to educational and school guidance by the student welfare psychologist, that:

- 1) promotes the wellbeing of the school and study community and cooperation with the students' families and other loved ones;

- 2) supports the students' learning and wellbeing as well as their social and mental capabilities.

Early consultation is the primary method for the student welfare psychologist to support a child in pre-primary education. Their goal as a member of the student welfare team is to promote the children's mental wellbeing, learning, and positive overall development during the pre-school year and during the transition to school. Psychologist work in pre-primary education includes community work, consultation with personnel, and work with individual children and their guardians. Communal work includes supporting the group-level wellbeing of the pre-primary education unit (atmosphere, peaceful work, bullying) through multidisciplinary cooperation.

The student welfare psychologist's work with individuals generally involves supporting the immediate adults, network cooperation, children transitioning to school, and service guidance. The psychologist is consulted on the need for work with an individual, assessing the need with the early childhood education personnel and/or the guardians. When necessary and upon request, the psychologist helps assess and plan a specific child's need for support measures from the perspective of learning, mental development, self-regulation difficulties and mental health. The student welfare psychologist can be asked for a psychologist's statement or similar report regarding exceptional pre-primary education arrangements due to the child's need for support or state of health, entering basic education one year later, or the need for extended/early need for compulsory education. In addition, the psychologist may consult on the need for interpretation and assistant services for health reasons. The student welfare psychologist helps with planning the support needed for the transition to school life when necessary. The pre-primary education psychologist handles any transfers of data to the basic education psychologist. The psychologist also helps with the transfer of data from pre-primary to basic education that necessary for the arrangement of education.

The psychologist joins the multidisciplinary group of experts with the consent of the child/guardian.

5. STUDENT WELFARE SOCIAL WORKER

The student welfare social worker is an expert in social services, social interaction, and wellbeing. In accordance with the Student Welfare Act (1287/2013), social worker services refer to educational and school guidance by the student welfare social worker, that:

- 1) promotes the wellbeing of the school and study community and cooperation with the students' families and other loved ones;
- 2) supports the students' learning and wellbeing as well as their social and mental capabilities.

Early consultation is the primary method for the student welfare social worker to support a child in pre-primary education. Their tasks are related to both communal and individual student welfare work. These tasks include customer work, student welfare work in accordance with the curriculum, and multidisciplinary cooperation within the pre-primary education unit and with external parties. The goal of the student welfare social worker is to also promote cooperation between guardians and the pre-primary education unit.

Communal work

Communal student welfare focuses on the pre-primary education unit. The social worker's tasks in the pre-primary education unit may include:

- Participation in the communal student welfare group as an expert in their field
- Participation in the development of the pre-primary education unit's communal operating culture

- Promotion, planning and monitoring of safety and wellbeing in the pre-primary education environment and community
- Communications on social worker services to children, guardians, and other partners in pre-primary education
- Participation in planning parent-teacher conferences, transition to school, and theme days
- Membership in the pre-primary education unit's crisis team

To support wellbeing in the pre-primary education unit, the social worker may work with the pre-school teacher on:

- Consulting the pre-primary education unit's personnel
- Surveying the groups' overall status and helping with planning based on the surveys
- Observation of the groups
- Working with groups of children

Work with individuals

Work with individuals may include:

- Survey and assessment of a child's overall situation
- Support meetings with the child
- Support and advice for parenthood
- Consulting the pre-primary education unit's personnel
- Cooperation with the child, guardians and pre-primary education unit on teaching arrangements for the child: The social worker participates, when necessary and upon request, in the assessment and planning of an individual child's support measures from the perspective of the conditions, interpersonal relationships, social interaction and wellbeing, behaviour, emotions and life management. The student welfare social worker helps with planning the support needed for the transition to school life when necessary.
- Cooperation with non-school parties that work with children (e.g. child welfare, family counselling services, rehabilitation services for children)
- Referral to support measures outside pre-primary education

The social worker joins the multidisciplinary group of experts with the consent of the child/guardian.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

The maternity and child health clinics are responsible for public health nurse services in pre-primary education. The public health nurse at the maternity and child health clinic is an expert in preventive health care. Maternity and child health clinic services include periodic health examinations and health advice that considers the needs of the customers and families. The public health nurse works across professions with other specialist groups.

Work with individuals

- Pre-school age children get their own nurse at the clinic
- Individual pre-school age children receive public health nurse services at the clinic, such as the six-year examination and individual appointments. This is based on the extensive four-year examination by the public health nurse and a doctor, which the five-year and six-year examinations are based on.

- The public health nurse, with the consent of the guardian, joins the multidisciplinary expert group and participates in other network meetings.
- When necessary and upon request, the public health nurse helps to assess and plan the child-specific support measures from the perspective of the child's health and functional capacity. When necessary, the public health nurse helps to plan the support for transitioning to school.

Communal work

- The clinic's public health nurse joins the communal student welfare groups in their area where possible and upon invitation/when necessary.
- The task of the public health nurse is to highlight the health promotion angle in the pre-primary education community.
- Other communal work: a designated nurse at the maternity and child health clinic and the area's service managers participate in the regional biannual triangle meetings. The triangle partnership is the cooperation group between early childhood education, the maternity and child health clinic, Rehabilitation Services for Children and Family Social Work.
- Responds to consultations: Contacts and consultations with the clinic take place through the Western Uusimaa Wellbeing Services County's central maternity and child health clinic authority line. If the central service is unable to handle the matter, it will be referred to the clinic's public health nurse if necessary.

The pre-primary education unit primarily consults the child's designated public health nurse.