



City of Malmö

Malmö's pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

A strong social Europe should start with children. Children should have good living standards and a natural place in our cities. Malmö is urgently working to ensure that we adhere to principle 11 of the European Pillar of Social Rights by guaranteeing children's right to childcare and support.

Our commitment to principle 11: Childcare and support to children

Malmö is a youthful and child-friendly city, working to deliver inclusive education services from early childhood, providing a sound platform for lifelong learning. We strongly believe that a preschool of good quality is crucial for the wellbeing of children and for the development of a socially sustainable Malmö. The Swedish approach to preschool education stands out as a one of the few systems that integrates educational and care-giving practices (Educare) to support the learning and development of children throughout the early years (ages 1-6). From the age of 3 years all children have the right to attend the preschool free of charge 525 hours a year. 27,500 children between the ages 1-6 live in Malmö and 96% of these children within the ages 3-5 attended preschool in 2019. Preschools contribute to creating equal living conditions for children growing up in Malmö and to ensuring that the city fulfills its responsibility to the child's right to health, life, and development, according to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

The city of Malmö is dedicated to ensuring that all children in our city have this right fulfilled. We will invest a total of 281 802 374 EURO from our municipal budget for regular preschools in Malmö 2020.

Malmö pays special attention to supporting children whose health is at risk, as well as children with parents of migrant background that have recently arrived in Sweden, as well as those whose parents are asylum seekers.

In addition to the regular preschools, the city of Malmö also provides open preschools and family centers that can be used free of charge for all.

The total cost for all preschools in Malmö in 2019 was 282 174 963 EURO of which 1 637 328 EURO was the cost of the open preschools.

The open preschools and family centres work hard to reach caregivers and their children. They are a link between the families and the Swedish school system, especially in city districts where most of the caregivers and children are of foreign background. An open preschool is a meeting place where all children between the ages of 0-6 are welcome with their caregivers in order to meet other children and play together. It is also a place where adults can meet others in a similar situation, learn from one another's experience and get better equipped to take steps towards being able to attend a regular preschool.

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One of Malmö's open preschools is specifically tailored towards people with a migrant background who have arrived in Sweden recently and focuses on language learning for both children and adults, as well as providing information about Swedish society. Many of the staff at this preschool are multilingual and act as 'bridge builders' For foreign-born families, the open preschool is sometimes their first meeting with other parents and children in Sweden and a way into a social community and a safe entry into society.

A family centre usually consists of, other than the open preschool, a childcare health centre, social counseling, a maternity/midwife clinic, dentist clinics for children, and sometimes also family pedagogues, all under the same roof working as a 'one-stop shop'. All residents of Malmö between the ages of 0-6 are welcome to use these facilities free of charge. At the family centre, the visitors are referred between the different clinics, based on their family's needs. Through this cooperation, families that are at risk of exclusion are more likely to get the help and support that they need. All family centres also offer language learning supporting activities, which are a good complement to ordinary SFI (Swedish for immigrants) education and a possibility for those on parental leave to learn the language.

Today there are six family centers in Malmö with open preschools and an additional three open preschools, all of which are free of charge to attend. During 2019 a total of 86 970 visits were registered at the nine open preschools.

Malmö is committed to setting up an additional family centre in 2020 to respond to the increasing demand and needs from families seeking support. We are committed to promoting a good establishment for newly arrived migrants and increasing their participation as well as social cohesion with a special focus on helping their integration by means of language learning of Swedish. We believe family centres play an important role in helping language learning, which is the key to integration

The city of Malmö takes its responsibility to live by the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights very seriously and wholeheartedly and has a clear vision to become a more inclusive city and contribute to a stronger social Europe.

Sedat Arif

Deputy Mayor of Malmö

Labour market and social services