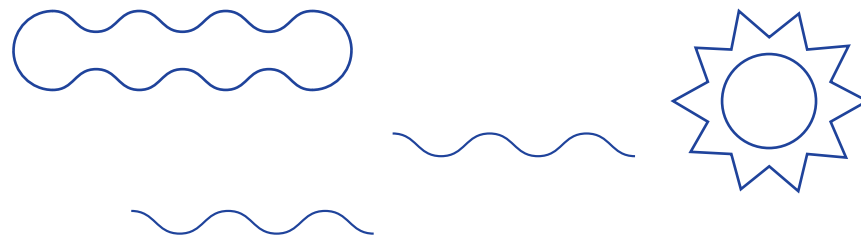


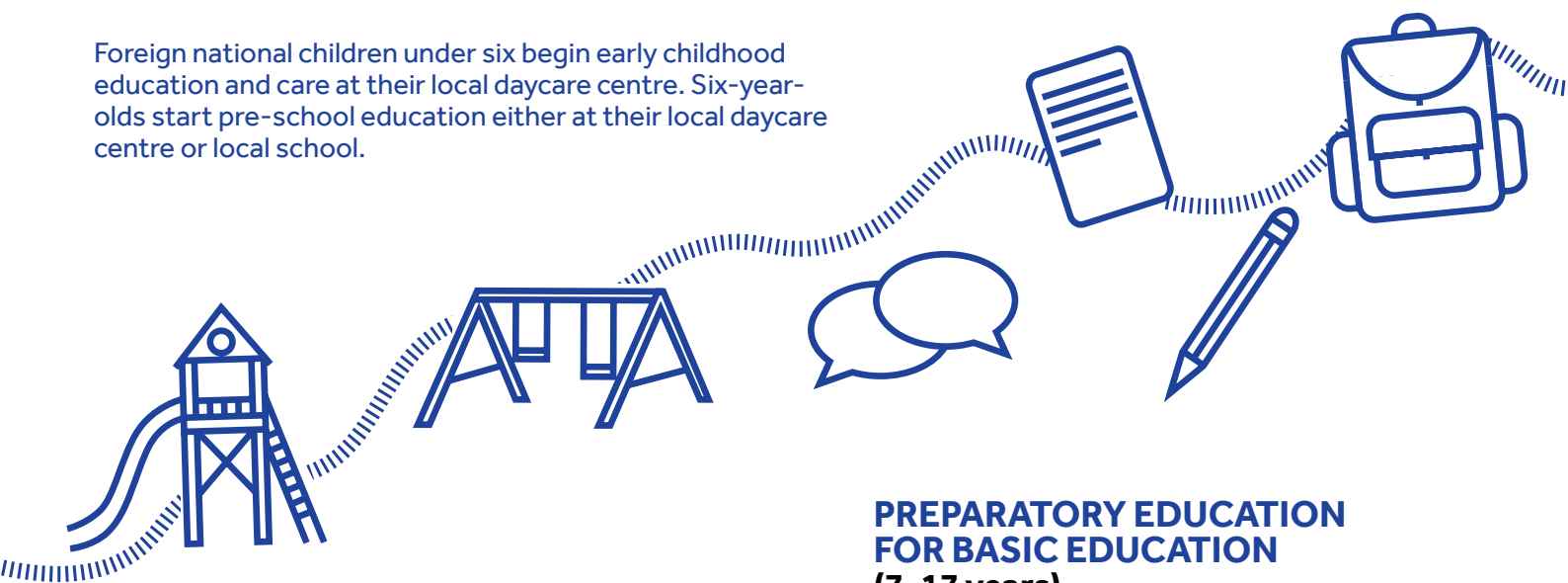
GENERAL EDUCATION



KUOPIO

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS IN FINNISH

Foreign national children under six begin early childhood education and care at their local daycare centre. Six-year-olds start pre-school education either at their local daycare centre or local school.



Children aged 7 to 16 years, with no Finnish skills, begin their school career in the preparatory education for basic education, and transfer to mainstream basic education once they have acquired enough proficiency in the Finnish language. After basic education, foreign students, whose Finnish skills are insufficient for study at the upper secondary level, can develop their Finnish proficiency and learning skills in the preparatory education for general upper secondary education or vocational education.

PREPARATORY EDUCATION FOR BASIC EDUCATION (7–17 years)

- duration: about 1 year
- Kalevala Comprehensive School, 7–13 years
- Pyörö Comprehensive School, 13–17 years
- for children who do not speak Finnish
- followed by transfer to basic education
- studies comprise Finnish, learning skills, and subject instruction
- free of charge

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (9 months–5 years)

- duration: 0–5 years
- voluntary
- supervised and structured daycare
- child health clinic services
- subject to a charge

BASIC EDUCATION (7–16 years)

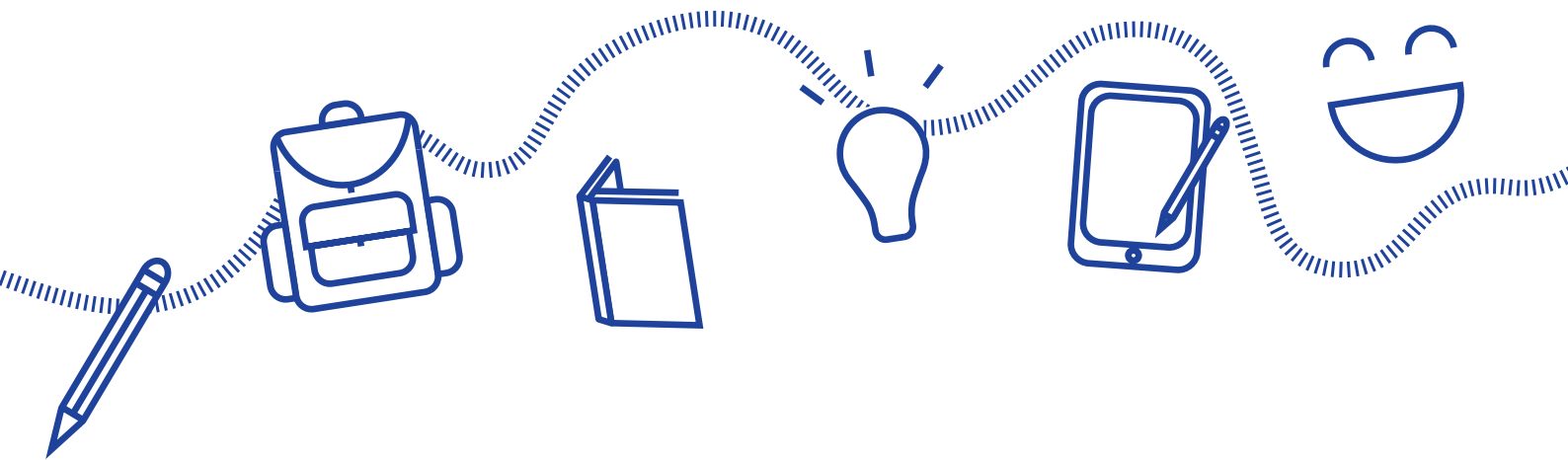
- duration: 9 years
- grades 1–9
- includes free school lunches, student support measures, and school health care
- free of charge

PRE-PRIMARY/PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION (6 years)

- duration: 1 year
- grade 0
- free of charge

GENERAL UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION/ VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (16–19 years)

- duration: about 3 years
- matriculation examination/vocational qualification
- eligibility for higher education institutions
- Finnish as a second language studies continue
- free of charge



PREPARATORY EDUCATION (16 years and older)

Preparatory education for general upper secondary education (LUVA)

- duration: 1 year
- Kuopio Upper Secondary School for Adults
- voluntary
- for foreign pupils who do not have enough proficiency in Finnish
- prospect of completing basic education studies or upper secondary courses
- improves Finnish language skills and increases the possibility of entry to general upper secondary schools
- free of charge

Preparatory education for upper secondary vocational education and training (VALMA)

- duration: approximately 1 year
- Savo Vocational College
- voluntary
- for Finnish-speakers and foreign students with insufficient proficiency in Finnish
- develops Finnish language skills and aids entry to upper secondary vocational education and training
- free of charge

Voluntary additional year of basic education

- duration: 1 year
- grade 10
- voluntary
- prospect of improving basic education grades, and preparation for upper secondary education
- free of charge

More information

www.kuopio.fi/en/etusivu
→ Daycare and Schools