Nordic friends cooperation in preschool/kindergarten 2027



Akureyri Lahti Randers Västerås Ålesund

Purpose

Since 2001, Nordic networking days have been arranged for the preschool every year. The network's task is to preserve the tradition of exchange of experience between educators and leaders who work in preschool activities in the Nordic friend cities.

The purpose of these relationships is basically to preserve and strengthen the peaceful bonds that exist between people. The relationships are also used to understand other cultures and exchange knowledge and experiences between preschools and systems.

The Nordic countries have a long tradition of cooperation based on shared history and culture, similarities in welfare systems and democratic forms of government. The countries share several basic values that characterize Nordic cooperation and bind us together. The present demands that we stand united to protect and defend our common values and that we stand up for them.

Goal

The goal is to develop and strengthen the Nordic preschool activities by focusing on current and future pedagogical focus and interest areas in the friend cities' preschools.

The educators and leaders are also encouraged to visit each other's preschools and through practical work contribute to exchanging experiences, knowledge and competence with each other. In this way, we get a common picture of preschool in the Nordic countries. This should lead to development and/or confirmation in the educators' and leaders' own preschools.

Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

"Each state must take responsibility for and use its resources to the full to fulfill children's rights. Where necessary, states must cooperate internationally."

Läs barnkonventionen här | unicef.se

Conventions on the rights of the child | unicef.se

About the cooperation

The Nordic collaboration is unique to the preschool. It unites the Nordic friend cities and gives a common image that the preschool is strong and proud in the Nordic countries. The networking days give the participants new experiences, knowledge, insights and ideas about preschool in general. We learn from each other and that creates an understanding of similarities and differences in preschools in Nordic countries. That the collaboration has been going on since 2000 shows that it is a successful concept.

We hope that teachers, managers, development leaders, strategists, administrative managers and politicians will continue to support Nordic friend cities cooperation in the future. That we can contribute with new thoughts and inspiration that can give courage, faith, hope and new perspectives on our work with children in the present and in the future. That we can all continue to enjoy sharing knowledge and be inspired through Nordic cooperation.

Plan and arrangement

The nordic networking days for preschool are based on three parts:

- Joint research-based keynote lecture.
- Shareshops where the friend cities contribute and lead.
- Study visits and exchange of experiences in our Nordic preschools.

The theme is a common thread through all three parts.

The networking days are evaluated jointly each time, and also in each city, therefore ensuring a constant developement of the concept. Through this we ensure quality and make the networking days better.



December
- Follow up in each city
- 6 December, Finland's National Day
- News at norsamby.com and Facebook

January
- News at norsamby.com and Facebook

February
- 1 February, last date application for Nordplus
- 5 February, steering group meeting via Teams
- Proposals for shareshops are sent to the working groups of the cities

November
- 25–26 November, steering group meeting in Reykjavik
- News at norsamby.com and Facebook

March
- Meeting in the cities working groups and decisions on shareshops
- 23 March, Nordic Day
- 19 March, steering group meeting via Teams
- 5 April, information of shareshops sent to Randers

October
- Follow up in each city

April
- 15 April, invitation with program and registration will be posted on norsamby.com
- News at norsamby.com and Facebook

September
- 23–24 September, Nordic networking days for preschool in Randers
- News at norsamby.com and Facebook

May
- 15 May, last day for registration
- 17 May, Norway's National Day
- News at norsamby.com and Facebook

August
- 20 August, steering group meeting via Teams

June
- Presentation of shareshops for the working groups of the cities
- 5 June, Denmark's Constitution Day
- 6 June, Sweden's National Day
- 17 June, Iceland's National Day

Theme and shareshops in Randers 2027

Play, learn and grow – it starts with us!

- Early childhood education of high quality
- The teacher's role in play
- Culture of evaluation

- Each friend city contributes 2 shareshops based on the theme.
- A total of 10 shareshops with maximum 2 leaders in every shareshop.
- 1 leader in every shareshop don't need to pay participation fee.
- If it's possible, shareshops more like workshops.

Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers are not decided at the moment.

Keynote speakers will be in English.

We will provide additional information about the research-based keynote speakers later.

When and where

When: Thursday and Friday September 23–24, 2027

Where: Randers, Denmark

Location: Værket, Sven Dalsgaards Plads 1, DK-8900 Randers C

Participation fee: DKK 2 300 per person

Registration open from: April 15, 2027

Last day for registration: May 15, 2027

Language at the networking days

It must be stated in the invitation that we speak Scandinavian languages on the networking days, with the support of English or with an interpreter.

It must be stated in the description of the shareshop which language is spoken.

Before the main lecture and shareshops, a short summary must be available in English for those who wish.

Leaders of lectures/shareshops must bear in mind that the participants come from all the Nordic countries and therefore speak slowly and clearly.

Part of the exchange is listening to other languages, learning to understand and saying a few words.

Possibilities to apply for grants

Nordplus – application open till February 1, 2027

Denmark Nordplus — Uddannelses- og Forskningsstyrelsen

Finland Nordplus Korkeakoulutus | Opetushallitus

Iceland Nordplus | Ísland.is

Norway Nordplus | HK-dir

Sweden Nordplus - Universitets- och högskolerådet (UHR)

Additional possibilities

- Nordplus Junior
- Jobshadowing
- Studyvisit

Themes of previous networking days

2026 Västerås	More than words – language and communication as keys to social belonging and play.
2025 Ålesund	Strong foundation for the next generation – teachers and children.
2024 Lahtis	The future of early childhood education and care in the changing world of society.
2023 Akureyri	Prescool for everyone.
2022 Randers	Parent involvement in Nordic day care – How can collaboration with parents on the developement and learning of 0-6 year old children contribute to a good childhood?
2019 Västerås	The best interests of the child – How do the Nordic preschools work with the main principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
2018 Ålesund	The strength of the Nordic kindergarten tradition – What makes it so unique?
2017 Lahti	The child's versatile skills in preschool.
2016 Akureyri	The child's last year in preschool – on the way to elementary school.
2015 Västerås	Modern technology in children's play and learning.
2014 Randers	Health, movement and outdoor life, the role of the educator.
2013 Ålesund	Life and learning in the earliest years – with a focus on the youngest children.
2012 Lahti	The world is changing – how are the children in the Nordic preschools doing?
2011 Akureyri	Play for life.
2010 Västerås	Mathematics has many languages, language and mathematics development in preschool.

Themes of previous networking days

2009 Randers	Socially disadvantaged children in Nordic kindergartens.
2008 Ålesund	Children's participation in preschool.
2007 Akureyri	Cultural forms of expression.
2006 Västerås	Different – Same – Equal – With a gender perspective in preschool.
2005 Randers	Relationship competence – from fault finding to recognition.
2004 Ålesund	The reflective teacher – a resource that cannot be dispensed with in the future.
2003 Akureyri	The modern childhood as a challenge – to meet the modern child.
2002 Västerås	Quality and/or service development in today's preschool?
2001 Randers	The Nordic child perspective and pedagogical documentation.

Budget

Each city contributes financially to enable the annual networking days to take place. The fee that each city pays for its participants must cover costs for premises, joint lecturer, transport, joint dinner and other refreshments.

Participation fee: DKK 2 300 per person.

The host country can in some cases have the highest number of participants because they are in home country. Other countries contribute 10–25 participants each, for the networking days to work out financially.

150 participants is a good number considering premises and transport as well as school visits, lectures and shareshops.

Nordic steering group

The Nordic steering group plans, implements, follows up and evaluates the networking days.

The steering group includes two or three people from each city, a total of around ten people.

Planning meetings are held for two days each year in November. The meeting takes place in the capital of the country that will be the next host municipality. This means that Akureyri plans for the steering group meeting in Reykjavik November 25–26, 2027, ahead of the networking days in Akureyri 2028.

Representatives in the steering group

City of Akureyri
Anna Lilja Sævarsdóttir
Leader Leikskólinn Iðavöllur
annalilja@akmennt.is

Inda Björk Gunnarsdóttir
Leader Leikskólinn Kiðagil
indabjork@akmennt.is

City of Lahti
Mika Harju
Director of Early Childhood Education and Care
mika.harju@lahti.fi

Piia Larinen
Chief of services in Early Childhood Education and Care
piia.larinen@lahti.fi

Suvi Ruusunen
Chief of services in Early Childhood Education and Care
suvi.ruusunen@lahti.fi

City of Randers
Anna Plovbøl Pedersen
Leder Børnefagligt Udviklingscenter
anna.plovbol.pedersen@randers.dk

Michael Nielsen
Leader Helsted Børnehus
michael.nielsen@randers.dk

City of Västerås
Anna-Maria Barnelius
Rektor förskola barn- och utbildningsförvaltningen
anna-maria.barnelius@vasteras.se

Monika Löving Nilssen
Kommunikatör stadsledningskontoret
monika.loving.nilssen@vasteras.se

City of Ålesund
Cecilie Johansen
Rådgiver Oppvekst
cecilie.johansen@alesund.kommune.no

Haldis Iren Gundersen
Verksemdsleiar Barnehagar Ålesund ytre
haldis.iren.gundersen@alesund.kommune.no