

Akureyri Preschools

Welcome You



Preschool is the first level of the school system in Iceland and the beginning of the formal education of the individual. Preschool age is important for learning and development. Preschool age in Akureyri is defined following: Lower age limit 12 months August 31 – upper age limit, beginning of Elementary School.

The national curriculum for preschools and the educational policy of the town of Akureyri collectively create and guide the pedagogic work of preschools in accordance with the laws and regulations that apply to their operations. The national curriculum is a guide for all those who are engaged in raising and educating children in preschools and it presents a flexible framework for their efforts. Based on the legal aims that apply to preschools, primary and secondary schools, the following fundamental educational objectives have been presented: literacy, sustainability, health and welfare, democracy and human rights, equality, and creativity. Those basic features present a common guiding light in education, as well as in the raising of children, and caring for them in preschools. They are designed to be interwoven in all their activities. Each preschool prepares its own curriculum of studies and work.

Akureyri preschools emphasize i.e., knowledge, skills, respect, and wellbeing, while also insisting that every child must learn how to work with others, share with others, sympathize with others, and have consideration for others.



Iðavöllur

Work of Art Designed in Commemoration of Seamen's Holiday

Application

Applications to Preschools need to be submitted in electronic form on the Akureyri Town Home Page <http://www.akureyri.is> (select Þjónustugátt)

It is important to ensure that an application is filled out in detail.

Applications shall have been submitted before the 1st of February of the year requested for the child to commence school attendance.

Preschool Enrollment

See more detailed [roles here](#)

The main registration commences in March. On registration, the parents will receive by e-mail information about which school is available for their child. The school principals provide all the detailed information e.g., concerning school schedules and arrangement for adjustment of children to the school. The scheduling of the adjustment is determined mainly by two features, i.e., the seasonal summer closing of the school and departure of children leaving for elementary school. Children therefore start their school attendance at different times of the year from the end of May until September, depending entirely on the conditions prevailing at each school. The number of children in a school is thus determined based on its size, and children registration ends when the requisite number of children has been reached. If children quit school during the winter months, new children are enrolled.

*„Do you recognize my eyes “
A child's project at Kiðagil
Preschool. The parents re-
ceived the project of identi-
fying their children's eyes..*

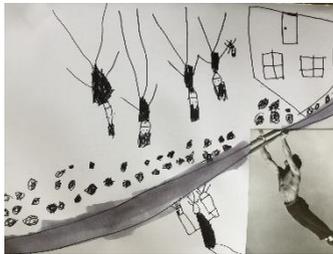


Iðavöllur

Working with pen and ink

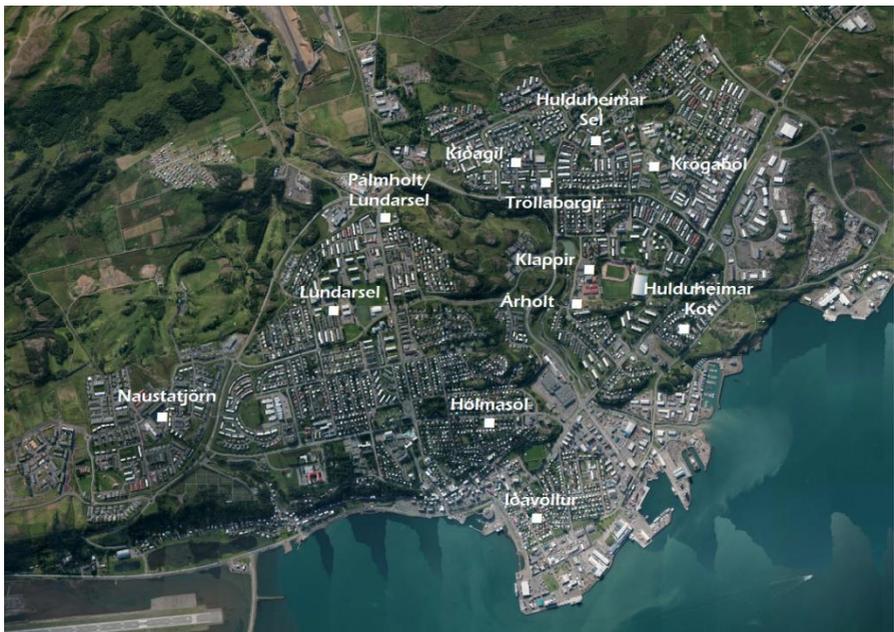
Subject:

Black&white photographs



Operation of preschools in Akureyri

In autumn of 2023 there will be 10 preschools operating in Akureyri and Hrísey. These schools are: Hulduheimar (Kot and Sel), Iðavöllur / Dvergheimur situated in Oddeyrarskóli, Klappir, Kiðagil, Krógaból/Móar situated in Síðuskóli, Lundarsel/Pálmholt, with Þingvalastræti, Naustatjörn, Tröllaborgir / Árholt and Hrísey School, a joint operation of a preschool and an elementary school. Hólmasól is operated by a private organization Hjallastefnan ehf. with financial support from the town of Akureyri.



Hulduheimar

Principals: Snjólaug Brjánsdóttir and
Agnes Bryndís Jóhannesdóttir



Hulduheimar has two sites of operation, Sel and Kot

e-mail: hulduheimar@akureyri.is

homepage: <http://hulduheimar.karellen.is>



School Motto: Feeling Well – Being Active –Welfare

Well-being – Emphasis is placed on having everybody feel good, because, if an individual feels good, it improves his/her ability to flourish and thrive.

Being Active - Emphasis is placed on empowering children in their own studies and work because children learn best by doing.

Welfare – Childrens welfare is promoted by laying a solid foundation so that the individuals can in future thrive and enjoy themselves in a democratic society.

"Peace of Mind - Awareness of the Present and Meditation in the preschool" is the most recent preschool project. As its name indicates, the aim is to create an atmosphere of tranquility amongst children and instructors by teaching breathing exercises, yoga, and mindfulness. The objective is to enjoy ourselves instead of dashing back and forth and therefore there is a constant search for ways and means to slow down and enjoy the fleeting moment. Hulduheimar is also a life skills school, where the aim is to strengthen the ethics of children and adults. Such work is performed by playing as well as by working with virtues for the purpose of becoming both a kind and enlightened person.

Sel (Síðusel), Kjalarsíða 3

Number of classes: 3

Tel: 462 3034

Kot (Holtakot), Þverholti 3 – 5

Number of classes: 1

Tel: 462 7081



Iðavöllur

Gránufélagsgöta and Oddeyrarskóli

Principals: Anna Lilja Sævarsdóttir and
Ragnheiður I. Ragnarsdóttir

Tel: 414-3740

e-mail: idavollur@akureyri.is

Home page: <http://idavollur.karellen.is>



Number of classes: 5



Iðavöllur Preschool is situated in Oddeyri, one of the oldest districts of Akureyri. The Primary School Odd-eyrarskóli is in this same district and there is substantial cooperative activity between the two schools. For example, Dvergheimur, a class for the youngest preschool children, is in Oddeyrarskóli.

The school motto is **Learning is fun** and the school values are **Respect - Creation - Wellbeing**.

The school personnel emphasize professional child raising and educational work, whose aim is to provide children with a variety of opportunities to gain experience and learn through discovery and trying on their own through play. All basic features of education are applied with special emphasis on literacy and creativity. The Iðavöllur Curriculum also relies on the United Nations Convention on The Rights of The Child.

Daily life in the school thus focuses on play, activities, assignments, and communication. Projects often focus on the children's interests and teachers emphasize on observing the strongest capacities of everyone, both those of the students and those of the teachers. School methods are built on the Reggio Emilia approach.



The principal objectives of Iðavöllur are that everyone is to feel well in school, that positive relations prevail and that everyone is enabled to enjoy himself. Substantial emphasis is on reliable and positive communications with the children's families. Multi-culturalism is one of the rich resources of the school.

The excellent kitchen at Iðavöllur provides children and school personnel with wholesome nutrition, which constitutes the very basis of wellbeing and health.

Further information is the school home page: <http://idavollur.karellen.is>

Kiðagil, Kiðagili 9

Principals: Inda Björk Gunnarsdóttir and Katrín Jóhannesdóttir

e-mail: kidagil@akureyri.is

Home page: <http://kidagil.karellen.is>

Tel: 414-3770

Number of classes: 4



School motto:

Professionalism - Respect - Play and Literacy

Kiðagil Preschool is situated in Giljahverfi District in the northernmost part of Akureyri. Giljaskóli Elementary School next door. There is effective and good cooperation between the two schools.



The school philosophy is founded on literacy and the mutual respect that individuals show each other in work and play. The school seeks to encourage individuals to strengthen one another and to respect the studies of each and everyone. By means of increased training in literacy in its broad sense, individuals receive training in constructive communication, a positive attitude and helpfulness.

Preschool Emphases: The school worked in the years from 2009 - 2011 on a development project entitled Preschool Literacy. The aim of the project is to provide the children with targeted and comprehensive reading instruction from the inception of their school attendance, at the same time as their language comprehension deepens and their vocabulary increases.



By using SMT School Skills in teaching, the personal aims to create a good atmosphere in school and secure the safety and welfare of students and themselves. In the year 2012 Kiðagil received the Independence Award as an SMT preschool that supports scholastic aptitude/skills.



Professionalism

Respect

Play

Literacy



Klappir v. Höfðahlíð

Principals: Drífa Þórarinsdóttir and Áslaug Magnúsdóttir

Tel.: 414-3160

e-mail: klappir@akureyri.is

Home page: <http://klappir.karellen.is>

Number of classes: 7



Klappir preschool is situated at Höfðahlíð and it is annexed to the building of Glerárskóli Elementary School.

Klappir focus: Klappir emphasizes study through play with special emphasis on literacy and mathematics in daily work. We work with all aspects of learning through play and creativity and strive to activate the children's spontaneous interest through a variety of materials. Children are encouraged to help themselves, be independent, with the aim of strengthening their sense of identity and independence.

- Health promoting preschool – which promotes the health and well-being of all children and personnel.
- SMT - where a good learning environment, desirable behavior and increasing social skills are promoted. Paying attention to and reinforcing positive behavior. With supportive school skills, teachers and personnel strive to create a good atmosphere and ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and personnel in good cooperation with parents/guardians.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child – Klappir aims to be a school recognized by UNICEF and therefore, all school activities are based on the United Nations International Convention on the Right of the Child.
- Oriented education of environmental and sustainability and the school is on a „green branch “. The aim is to establish Klappir as a Green Flag School.

Klappir emphasis on a warm and joyful local atmosphere, where personal and constructive relations between personnel, children and parents serve as a guiding light.

Klappir cooperates with Glerárskóli, aiming to create continuity in the children's studies and thus facilitate their transfers from preschool to elementary school levels. For example, physical education of preschool children takes place in Glerárskóli gymnasium.

Krógaból Glerárkirkja

Principals: Jórunn Jóhannesdóttir and Guðný Rut Gunnlaugsdóttir



Tel.: 462 7060

e-mail: krogabol@akureyri.is

Home page: <http://krogabol.karellen.is>

Number of classes: 6

**Schools vision:
All children will be kind
and enlightened**



Krógaból Health Preschool is situated in the lower store of Glerárkirkja Church and from autumn 2023 one class, for the oldest preschool children, are situated in Síðuskóli. Good cooperation is between these two schools.

the school through emphasis on nutrition, exercise, and artistic creativity in their play. The health promotion emphasizes the importance of a healthy way of life early in childhood on the basis that it will thus become an integral part of future way of life.

There are 6 classes in the school, whereof there are one to two age groups in each class. The aim of a health preschool is to promote health within

Krógaból works with Life Skills teaching material, which emphasizes the importance for children to acquire life skills through all their studies at the school. Life skills are based on universal maturity, communication skills, logical expression, and respect for the environment. The aim of teaching life skills is to empower the moral sensitivity of children and adults alike, to become both kind and enlightened people.



Language cultivation is an integral part of daily school work, which includes i.a. various projects aiming at increasing understanding and the ability of children to express themselves and present their ideas to others. Emphasis is placed on interweaving conversation, expression, listening, writing

and reading into play and daily work. Improving the competence of children in the use of the Icelandic language, arousing their interest in books and teaching them to be able to read i.e. understand their environment. The subjects of study are based on the age and maturity of the children and emphasis is on learning through play.

Lundarsel, Hlíðarlundi 4 og Pálmholt, at Þingvallarstræti

Principals: Björg Sigurvinsdóttir and Helga María Þórarinsdóttir

Tel.: 462 5883

e-mail: lundarsel@akureyri.is

Home Page: <http://lundarsel.karellen.is>

Number of classes: 7



Lundarsel/Pálmholt is a health promoting preschool. The preschool operates in two buildings. Lundarsel is situated at Hlíðarlundur and Pálmholt at Þingvallarstræti. The school cooperate very well with Lundarskóli Elementary School

The school's work is quite varied and includes i.e. children's philosophy and study projects on equality constitute. Children are by nature curious and investigative and according to the Ideology of Children's Philosophy, it is more important to teach children to ask questions than it is to enlighten them with final answers. Philosophy empowers critical, creative, and considerate thinking.

A great deal of emphasis is on play because the experience that the child gains by playing is the most promising method of study. All study features are engaged through play and creation and the attempt is to harness the interest inspired by the children themselves. Employees observe their work through gender study glasses using the guiding light that all people are equal no matter which gender. Gender is never to hamper, restrict or put an end to wishes.



Health promotion and healthy lifestyle is one of the school's priorities, it is important that studies take place equally both outdoors and indoors. Health improvement consists i.e. in organized exercise, outdoor activities, and field trips. Children work on improving self-image and self-control. Lundarsel works with SMT, School Skills to create a good atmosphere, ensure safety and the welfare of everyone in the preschool. The preschool motto: "**Where wise, happy sages play and learn together**", refers to the joy that is inherent in playing the game of seeking answers and doing research on your own. Everyone is learning, children as well as adults.



Naustatjörn, Hólmatúni 2

Principals: Inga Bára Ragnarsdóttir
And Aðalheiður Hreiðarsdóttir

Tel.: 414-3750

e-mail: naustatjorn@akureyri.is

Home Page: <http://naustatjorn.karellen.is>

Number of classes: 6



Naustatjörn is situated in Naustahverfi neighborhood. The two schools, Naustatjörn and Naustaskóli are situated side by side and there is substantial and quality cooperation between the schools. There are six classes in the school, four in the housing facility of Naustatjörn and two in Naustaskóli. It varies whether classes have a solitary one year age group or two of them. This depends on the number of children in the group at each time. The Naustatjörn Ideology is that the children are to be enabled to tackle various projects through play in accordance with their own ideas and that they learn by trial and error. The children's assignments are challenging. Thus, the projects strengthen the development of the children and their knowledge, in addition to which the children learn through social interaction with others. The role of the adult is to present open questions, encourage the children to try new things and lead them forth so that they can come to their own conclusion.

The primary feature of emphasis at the school together with Positive Discipline is nature and the environment. A great deal of emphasis is placed on Environmental Education at the school, which was awarded the Green Flag in the years 2007,2009,2011,2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019.

Naustatjörn operates based on Positive Discipline. In brief, positive discipline consists in teaching social competence and life skills. Kindness and firmness are emphasized, mutual respect, problem solving, and regarding mistakes as a learning experience, follow up and the belief that everybody is more successful, when they feel well.

Tröllaborgir in Tröllagil and Árholt in Höfðahlíð

Principals: Anna Jóna Guðmundsdóttir og Marthen Elvar Veigarsson Olsen



Tel.: 469 4700

e-mail: trollaborgir@akureyri.is

home page: <http://trollaborgir.is>

Number of classes - 5

School motto:

Mind - Heart - Hand

Tröllaborgir operates in the two lowest levels of a 9 story building at Tröllagil in Giljahverfi. The building is owned by FÉSTA – student housing at the University of Akureyri. The Town of Akureyri manages the operation of the school, which has been operating since 2004. In autumn of 2019 a new class was started in Árholt at Höfðahlíð, which is intended for the youngest age group of school children.

The school's view is to work with and co-ordinate „Mind, heart and hand", meaning, that there will be a balance between knowledge, sensitivity, and implementation in all activities. The school's vision is based on the conviction that by empowering and strengthening the good in each child, a firm foundation is created for children's play and learning. Each child then adds to it on its own premises and ability. To achieve this, work is conducted based on Live Skills Theory, literacy in its broadest sense and yoga.

Life Skills Theory is founded on teachings that deal with human cultivation, ethical valuation, and faith in empowering and strengthening the good qualities in everyone. Work is conducted with virtues as learning methods to teach ethics e.g., responsibility, empathy, respect, and patience. These virtues contribute to self-control through play and study, in such a manner that the children can understand them and apply them in daily activities. Teaching and learning are interwoven with literacy in its broadest context. Through working with Life Skills Theory, children learn e.g., to read feelings, which is conducive to a good self-image and having confidence in yourself. By working with the concept of Virtue, children learn positive communication, increase their vocabulary, and improve their understanding of language. It is emphasized that the environment supports literacy i.e. illustrated daily program and labels are arranged in a reading direction. In daily activities we work with mantras/verses, rhymes, stories, games/play, and letters.

Yoga creates opportunities for children to achieve better relaxation and peace in learning and playing, which is important in our society. Yoga rhymes well with the Life Skills Theory, care, comfort, peace, sympathy, and warmth. Work is also conducted according to a concept named Increased Quality of Study - School Development (AGN) aiming to create good conditions for study and maturity for children and employees.



Hólmasól v/Helgamagrastræti

Principals: Alfa Björk Kristinsdóttir og
Ólína Aðalbjörnsdóttir



Tel.: 461 5363

e-mail: holmasol@hjalli.is

home page: <https://holmasol.hjalli.is/>

Number of classes/sections: 6

The Preschool is Operated by Hjallastefnan ehf.



Motto: Creative Thinking - Equality - Positive Attitude - Joy - Discipline

Hólmasól is located at the lower hillside in town and Brekkuskóli is a collaborative elementary school of the preschool. At Hólmasól there are six cores or sections, three girl cores and three boy cores. The youngest boys and girls are in special cores on the lower floor of the preschool and the oldest children are in four cores on the upper floor.

The school philosophy is founded on the Gender Study Program of Hjallastefnan. The aim of the school philosophy is to attend to the needs of individuals, promote a positive attitude and joy, and the environment is simple and transparent.

In Hjallastefnan work is performed by application of open content, where children's creative thinking develops. Hólmasól emphasis great respect for the environment and the children are taught positive discipline.

The aim of a gender separated preschool operation is positive coeducation, where genders are enabled to meet on a basis of equality, where no gender needs to suffer for their gender. On one hand the genders are strengthened separately and on the other hand the genders meet in special classes, where adults ensure affirmative communication.



Hríseyjarskóli - Smábær v/ Hólabraut

Principal: Þórunn Björg Arnórsdóttir

Tel.: 466 1782

e-mail: thorunna@akureyri.is

home page: <https://hriseyjarskoli.is/>

Classes: 1

Hríseyjarskóli is a collaboratively operated preschool and elementary school. It offers a variety of creative subjects of study for children ranging from 1 to 16 years of age. There is purposeful collaboration between preschool and elementary school sections, both in terms of events and assignments, where the aim is i.e. to receive training in cooperation, strengthen relationships, bridge the gap between school levels etc.

Hríseyjarskóli is a health promoting school as well as being a school on a “Green Branch” where sustainability is emphasized, and pupils are encouraged to choose healthy ways of life and become conscious of how important these pursuits are for their schooling.

In the preschool section Smábær, emphasis is placed on literacy and speech stimulation as well as life skills, and creativity, all of which constitute key elements in our work. The preschool section operates in a large and well organized space, which consists of a large common room, an intermediate enclosure, a large room, and a kitchen. There is also good access to a library, an arts classroom, gymnasium, and outdoor areas with new play equipment. The nature is nearby, which is quite useful in studies and field trips.

Hríseyjarskóli is constantly making progress with its view of the future, i.e.:

- to create a powerful and motivating environment of study, where a diverse group of pupils and teachers can utilize their talents and acquire new knowledge.
- for pupils to become independent and creative individuals, active and responsible in society.
- to create good and responsible parental cooperation.
- to utilize the population scarcity and personal relationships in a positive and responsible way in their studies
- to teach pupils to channel their creative energy in favor of good projects and a healthy way of life and positive communication.



Schools Motto: *Hríseyjarskóli - creative community*

Akureyri Town School and education committee is the administrative committee of the subject involved, but daily supervisory management of schools is exercised by The Division of Education, Leisure activity & Public Health, at Glerárgata 26, 1st Floor. Opening hours from 9:00-15:00 Mon - Fri

Tel. 460-1455

e-mail: fraedslusvid@akureyri.is

Home Page: www.akureyri.is

Personnel

The principal is the director of the preschool and responsible for its professional and administrative operation. The Assistant Principal is his/her deputy. Within each class there are administrators (head teacher), who are responsible for and managing the class operation. School employees work on the upbringing and education of all the children and his/her guiding light is respect and care for them.

Employees are under oath not to divulge any information, but the oath does not apply to incidents that are to be reported in accordance with the Act of Law on Child Welfare.



Naustatjörn Pond Work of Art Wrought in Commemoration of the Struggle against Persecution/Day of Positive Discipline

PMTO - Supporting Parent Management Training

SMT - School Management Training

PMTO- Parent Management, means "Parent Management Training Oregon Method".

PMTO constitutes a service for children, parents, and schools whose principal aim is to prevent serious behavioral difficulties and deal in a systematic way with the behavior of children by using the methods of PMTO. Work is performed using certain tools that support more positive behavior by a child.

SMT - School Management Training, (a version of the American method known as Positive Behavior Support/PBS) is founded on the ideology of PMTO. SMT - School Management Training is a method similar to PMTO, which emphasizes prevention and reduction of behavioral problems by i.e. teaching and training in social skills, encouraging desirable conduct and synchronizing the reaction of personnel to pupils, who demonstrate undesirable conduct.

More detailed information can be found on the Akureyri Town Home Page:

<https://www.akureyri.is/is/thjonusta/menntun/pmt0-foreldrafaerni> or by contacting Guðbjörg Ingimundardóttir, Project Manager of Information Section, Tel.: 460-1417.

Schools choosing not to introduce SMT- School Management Training – can choose another approved methodology of discipline method for example the *Positive Discipline*.

School Services

The Division of Education, Leisure activity & Public Health attends special services for schools concerning matters of individual pupils. School employees and/or parents can apply for special services for children on "Referral to Special Services of Preschools and Elementary Schools" The application forms are available in Service Portal on www.akureyri.is

An example of special service for a child that needs assistance could be specific learning difficulties, developmental deviations, behavioral problems, bullying and emotional problems. The personnel assess the problem of the child by means of tests, interviews, and an examination of the condition of the child and suggest remedies in cooperation with the family and school. It may prove necessary to seek services elsewhere e.g. at [Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(BUGL\)](#), [Counselling and Diagnostic Centre](#), [Akureyri's Hospital – SAK](#), [The Healthcare Institution of North Iceland – HSN](#) or other services, in which case employees of the department/ward involved will refer parties to the appropriate institute in cooperation with the parents.