

Characteristics of the Finnish Education

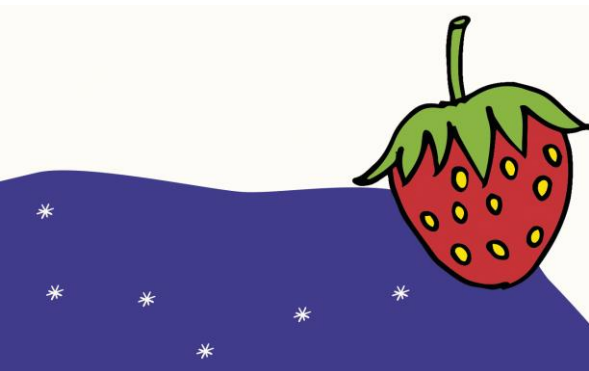
Typical Finnish School



Example Finnish School: Wivi Lönn Comprehensive School

500 Pupils
7-12 years

- 22 Classroom teachers
- 4 Subject teachers (religion, history)
- 11 language teachers
- 1 School secretary
- 1 School nurse
- 1 School canteen hostess
- 3 Special needs class teacher
- 3 Special needs teachers
- 1 School social worker
- 2 School psychologists

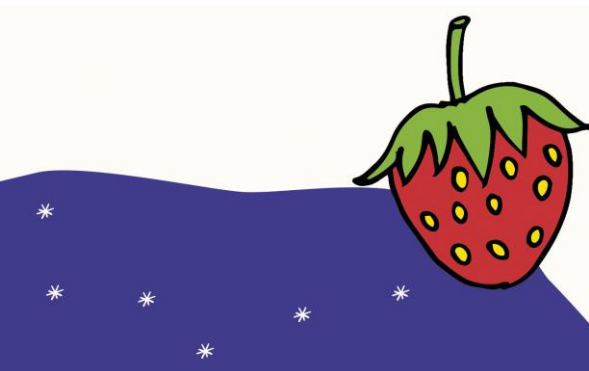




Classroom teacher

Classroom teacher is the teacher, which is present in children everyday school life from ages 7-12. They teach almost all subjects during that time.

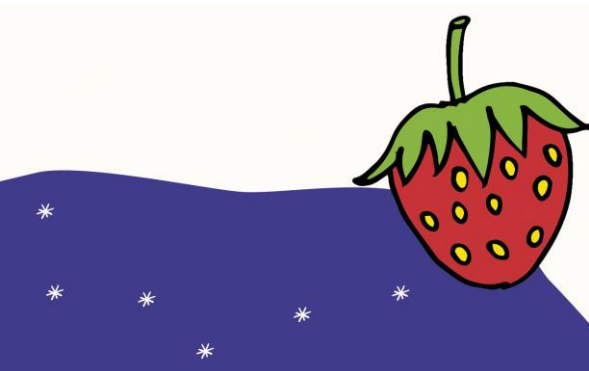
To become a classroom teacher in Finland requires a master's degree in educational science (ETCS 300 cr). This degree qualifies to serve as a classroom teacher and as a pre-school teacher.





Subject teacher

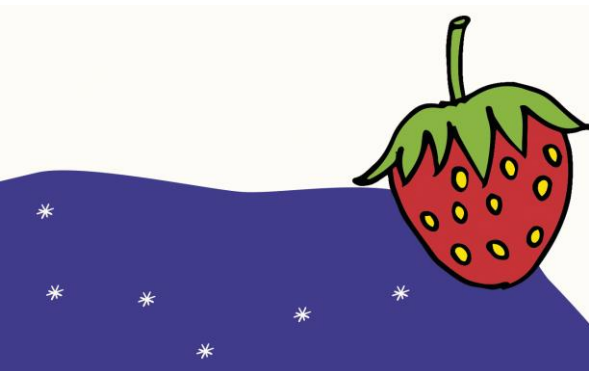
The subject teacher guides the students in connection with the teaching of an individual subject or in smaller school, several subjects and, if necessary, provides small group and personal guidance. Between classes 1-7 (7-12 year olds) most subjects are taught by the classroom teacher, the older the student gets the more individualized their study path gets and the more subject teachers they have.





School nurse

- promotes and monitors the health and well-being in the school community
- monitors and promotes students growth, health, and well-being
- supports the educational work of the student's parents and guardians
- student dental health care
- identifies the need for special support
- exercises special examinations necessary to establish the pupil's state of health

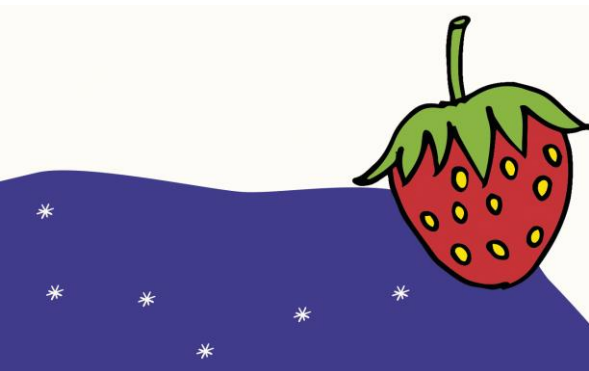




School canteen hostess

Supervises school lunch and breakfast

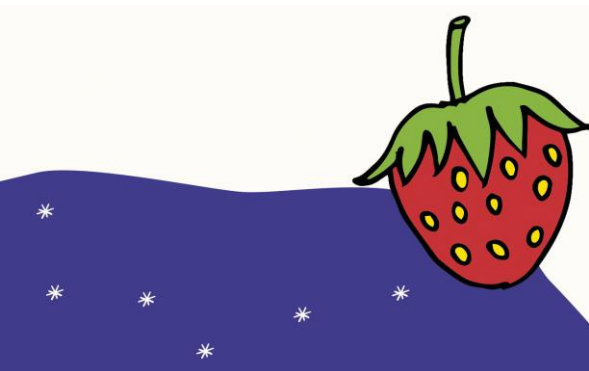
The task of school meals is to support the healthy growth and development of students, their ability to study and their dietary skills. Students between 7-18 are given a full free meal every working day. The meal will be enjoyed during an appropriately organized and guided fashion.





Special needs class teacher

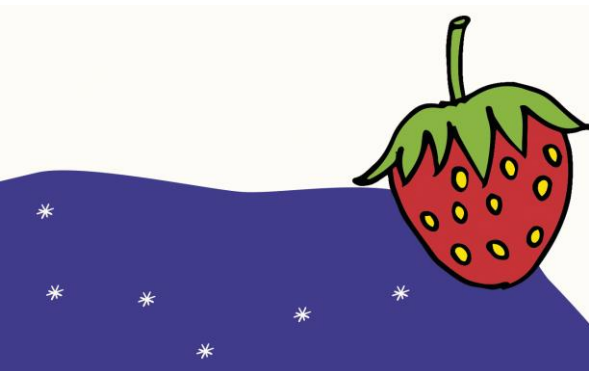
Like classroom teacher, special needs class teacher is the teacher, which is present in special needs students everyday school life from ages 7-12. They teach almost all subjects during that time in a special needs students class.





Special needs teacher

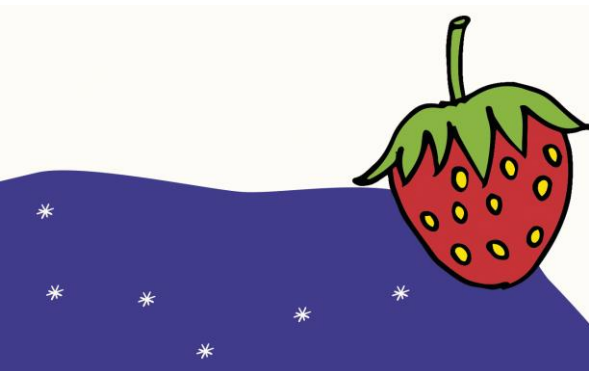
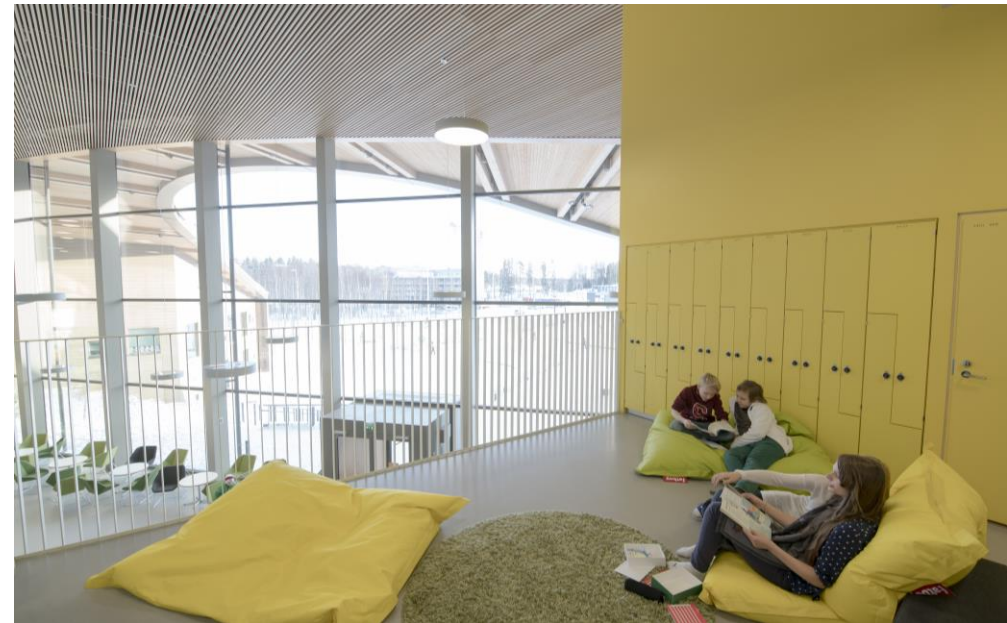
A special education teacher teaches an individual student, such as math to those who are left behind in school because of lacking skills. Special needs teachers often keep so-called “math clinics” or for instance “reading clinics”.





School social worker

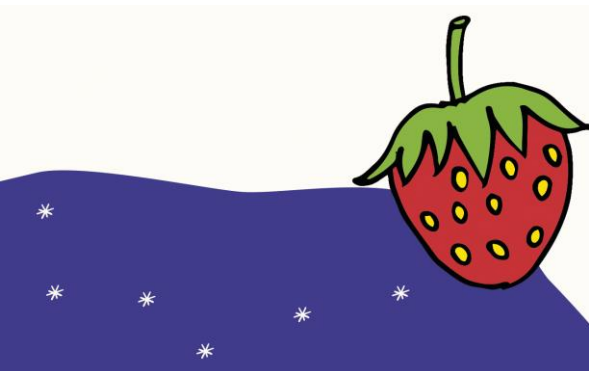
A professional specializing in preventive child protection work. They help students who have difficulty attending school, problems at home or their relationships, or problems or dilemmas related to their own growth and development.





School psychologist

The work of a school psychologist includes assessing the student's learning abilities, various schooling difficulties and mental situation, as well as planning support measures together with the student, parents, teacher, other student care group and possibly other partners.



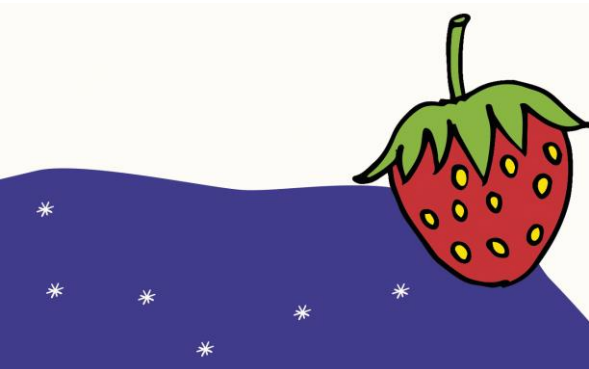


Librarian

In Finland libraries strongly advocate the voluntary use of the library and reading activities by children and young people.

All school classes are welcome in the library as well as classroom visits. Tampere has more than 15 public libraries. Nearest library to Wivi Lönn school is the Tampere main library.

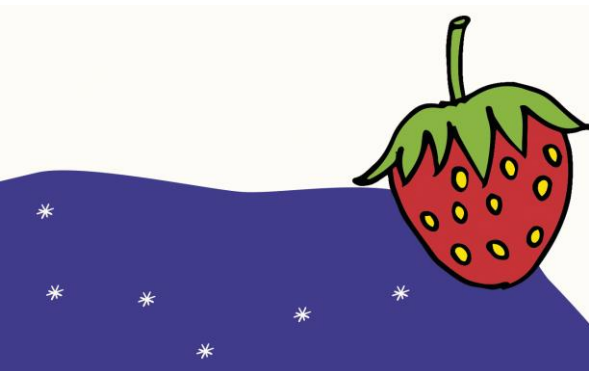
Specialist librarians also visit schools giving lectures and offering tips to what to read.





Example: Tour of the library (1-2 grades)

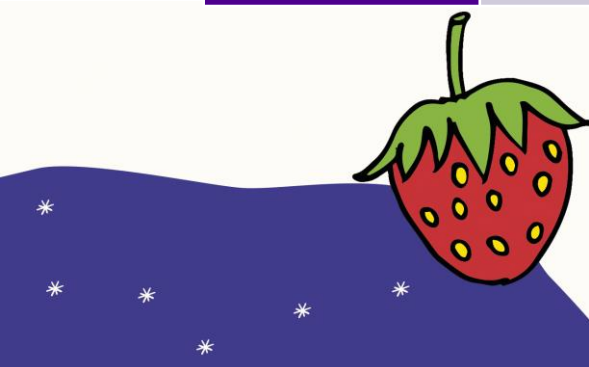
Librarian tells kids about the basics of using the library and what you can do in the library. The librarian recommends suitable books and the children learn to choose something that is interesting to read. The differences between fiction and non-fiction are discussed with students.





Typical Daily schedule, 4th grade

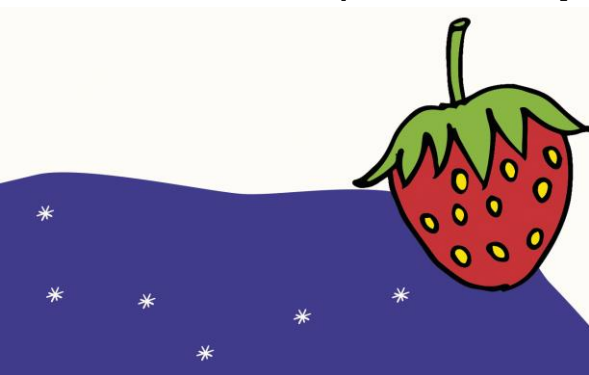
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8.15-9.00	Science		Finnish	Gym	
9.00-9.45	Math	English	Science	Gym	English
RECESS 30 minutes					
10.15-11.00	Finnish	Math	Math	Religion	Social studies
RECESS 15 min					
11.15-12.00	Finnish	Finnish	Finnish	Math	Music
SCHOOL LUNCH + RECESS 15 min					
12.30-13.15		Gym		Art	Optional subject
RECESS 15 min					
13.30-14.15		Crafts		Art	
14.15-15.00		Crafts			





Focus on well-being

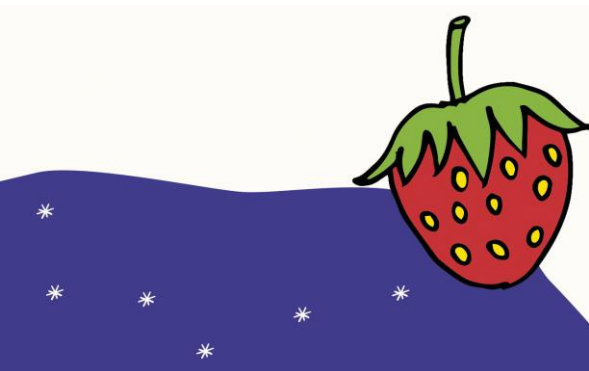
- ❑ 15 minutes **break / resess** after every 45 minutes lesson, at least one longer break (30 minutes) every day
- ❑ free, healthy school lunch for all students
- ❑ school nurses, counsellors, special needs teachers, psychologists, social workers
- ❑ free dental care provided for all children under 18 years
- ❑ emphasis on **positive pedagogy**





Child-centered education

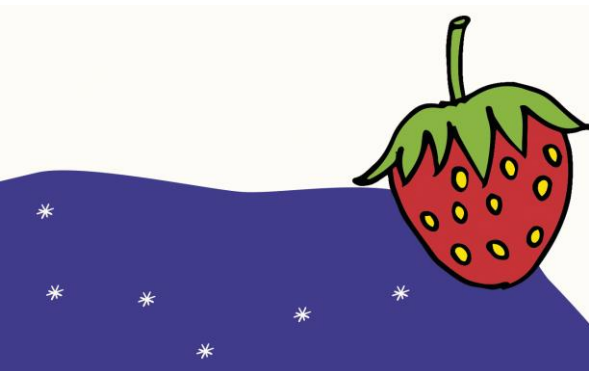
- ❑ The potential of every individual should be maximized.
- ❑ Learners should experience success and joy of learning
- ❑ During to first school years it is *important to play*.
- ❑ Learner centered pedagogy
 - Pupils are encouraged to work together
 - Learning by doing





Teaching based on children's natural development

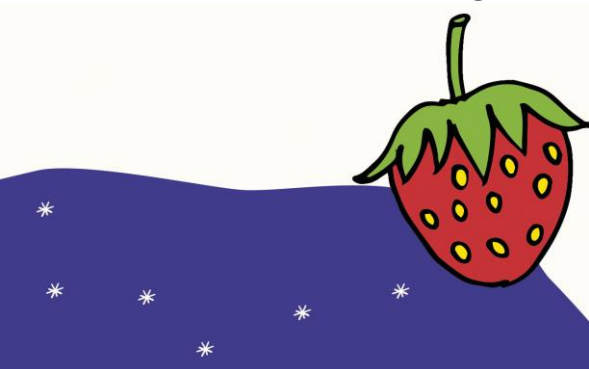
- ❑ It is vital to follow child's natural development and take his/her stage of development into account.
- ❑ Only teaching that is based on abilities and characteristics of a certain age group can be effective.
- ❑ It is harmful to children's development to force them to learn things they are not ready yet





Current Finnish pedagogy – Versatile methods for diverse learners

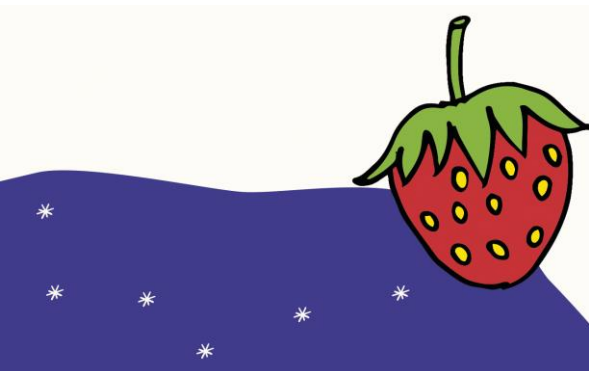
- ☐ Traditional teacher-led teaching
- ☐ Independent studies
- ☐ Activating methods
- ☐ Co-operative learning
- ☐ Project-based learning
- ☐ Phenomenon- and inquiry-based learning
- ☐ Use of digital learning environments and applications
- ☐ Learning through play, by doing





Activating teaching methods –what?

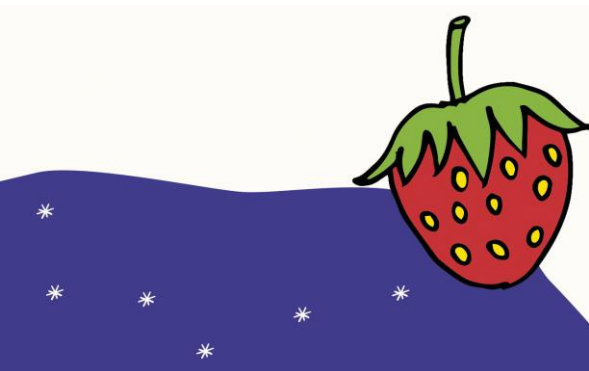
- ☐ Promote learners' own activity in learning
- ☐ Learners as active agents, instead of passive receivers
- ☐ Based on socio-constructivist view on learning





Activating teaching methods –how?

- ❑ **Activating thinking;** questions, arguments, provoking thinking
- ❑ **Activity-based methods**
Learning by doing
Hands-on methods, experiments
Co-operative methods
Creative methods, drama
PBL, inquiry-based methods etc.

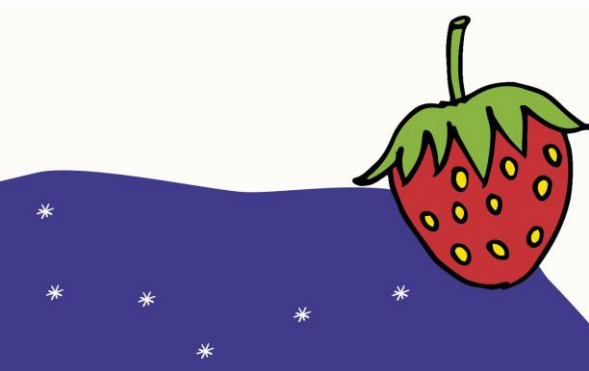




Activating and versatile methods

- why?

- ☐ Promotes learning
- ☐ Learners are different and experience joy of learning and success in different methods.
- ☐ You learn different skills while using different methods.
- ☐ What are the key skills and competencies in the future?





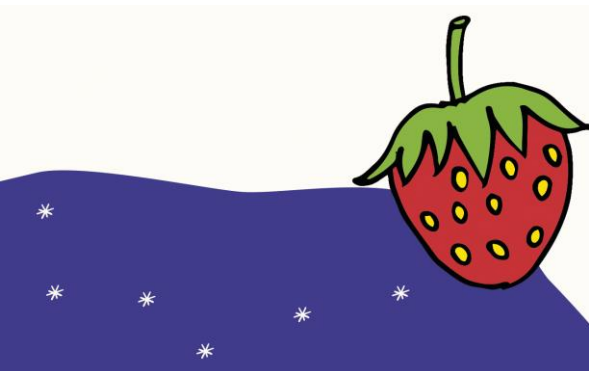
Physical activity

- ❑ According to scientific studies physical activity strongly strengthens learning.
- ❑ Combining movement with contents to be learned can enhance memorizing new things.
- ❑ Physical movement increases oxygen intake and improves brain function.
- ❑ For children with concentration difficulties physical activity provides needed action and furthermore enhances concentration on tasks.
- ❑ Physical movement integrated to lessons and different learning assignments increases student's motivation for learning.



Physical activity outside of a classroom

- ❑ Recesses: 60 minute's lesson includes 15 minute recess. Time for a free play. Schools can decide the rhythm during the school day
- ❑ Learning environments: using yards/hallways or even forests/parks/playgrounds nearby as learning spaces.





Sources

- ☐ Finnish Board of Education
- ☐ Wivi Lönn School
- ☐ Pixabay free images
- ☐ City of Tampere image bank
- ☐ Finland free image bank

