



Every child's equal value

– A given we work with everyday!

How about space spaghetti for lunch? Or a magic spell that turns children's dreams into milk for adults? Welcome to the Children's Planet!

The Children's Planet

Our preschool is one of the selected preschools in Sweden, which has been given the opportunity to work with The Children's Planet material. The Children's Planet is a teaching material about human rights, differences and respect. It consists of a picture book, a tutorial and four exclusively written songs. The material is based on the national preschool curriculum and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC contains every child's human rights. All rights apply to all children in Sweden as well as in the rest of the world.

The preschool's responsibility

It is every preschool's mission to actively and consciously communicate democratic values to the children. In practice, it is about illustrating what everyone's equal value means, to actively work against discrimination as well as emphasizing the children's right to influence.

No child shall be subjected to discrimination because of his/her skin colour, gender or family. For this reason, it is important that preschools constantly work to prevent discrimination and to promote a good environment for every single child. Preventive work is an important part of the preschool's assignment and a great part of the national curriculum. The Children's Planet is an opportunity to strengthen the work that is already being done to emphasize human rights.

Isn't it already obvious?

Within the preschool we are always aiming to develop and improve our work. Human rights, democracy and non-discrimination are topics we are never done working with. The discussion of these topics requires persistence and should be a dynamic part of our work every day, all year round. These topics are raised in various everyday situations, such as when getting dressed, while playing or dining, as well as during specific activities or projects.

It is stated in the curriculum that the preschool rests upon the grounds of democracy – this should be evident in our work everyday.

Differences and equal value

The book, the tutorial and the songs of The Children's Planet is all about the fact that we are all different and equal –and always worth the same. Differences are nothing negative but exist among all people, both on the inside and the outside. The preschool's mission is to ensure that the children do

not appreciate their own and others' differences as better or worse. For example, it is important not to silence a child who points out something that they perceive as a difference, but rather to respond with curiosity and dialogue.

Prejudices

Everyone has prejudices, even when we wish we didn't. However, by being aware of our prejudices and actively work towards them, we can do our best to ensure they do not affect how we treat other people. This is something all of us have to work with constantly- adults as children, educators as parents.

The preschool's task is to promote diversity and tolerance, to prevent violations and discrimination, and to act on the violations that are still taking place. This means that the preschool should make visible, discuss and work against all expressions of prejudices and intolerance. It is not enough to act only when something has already happened – preventing it from happening in the first place is equally important.

What can you do in order to set a good example?

To talk about differences, equality as well as inequality is something we encourage all families to do at home. Please ask your child/ children about The Children's Planet! The children will certainly have many reflections and thoughts about differences and equal value. Remember, you do not need all the answers, it's just as valuable to have an open conversation with your child. What does it feel like not being listened to? Has your child noticed injustice? What does it really mean and why is it so important to talk about everyone's equal value? You can also listen to The Children's Planet playlist on Spotify (search for Barnens Planet and the four songs will come up).

Remember!

Preschools are not value-neutral places. The national curriculum is clear when it comes to the preschool's mission to actively and consciously work to improve the children's understanding of democratic values. The more people that are involved in this important work –the better!

More information about The Children's Planet can be found on: <http://www.teskedorden.se/for-skolan/forskola/>



“On the children's planet – children can be themselves!”

The preschool is part of the school system and rests upon the foundation of democracy. (...) The education should also convey and firmly establish human rights and the fundamental values of democracy that the Swedish society rests upon. Curriculum for Preschool 18, the set of values and mission of the preschool.



The book (incl. tutorial and songs) is funded by financial support from Arvsfonden and written in collaboration between The Order of the Teaspoon, Gothia Fortbildning, Save the Children and Svenska OMEP (Organization Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire).