



HELSINKI

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Family life

Helsinki is a safe and cosy place for families to live, offering first-class healthcare and education. There are over 300 day care facilities provided by the City of Helsinki alone, and nearly 60 private facilities. Foreign language day care centres, schools and high schools can be found in Helsinki, as well. The high level of Finnish education is well-known and respected for the students' outstanding performances in the international PISA studies. The Finnish educational system is the target of benchmarking for many other countries developing their school systems.

Finnish students have repeatedly ranked first in PISA assessments.

PISA index* 2006

Country	Rank	Score
Finland	1	567
Japan	2	544
Hong Kong-China	3	542
Canada	4	542
Korea	5	538
New Zealand	6	537
Liechtenstein	7	535
Chinese Taipei	8	532
Australia	9	531
Estonia	10	531
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Sweden	23	496
Denmark	29	489
Norway	35	473

Source: OECD / PISA 2006 database
* Mean performance on the science scale



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In Finland, public health care is available for all. Private health care services are also widely available and they complement public services.

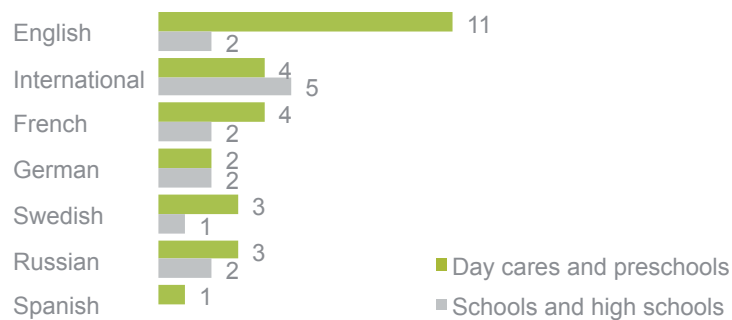
Global competitiveness index by health and primary education

Country	Rank	Score
Finland	1	6,58
Denmark	3	6,45
Sweden	5	6,44
Norway	7	6,39
Poland	36	5,96
Estonia	30	6,06
Germany	40	5,88

Source: World Economic Forum 2007-2008

Since fall 2008, Meilahti elementary school in Helsinki has included Chinese language studies in its curriculum. Business life has had a great influence in starting the teaching of Chinese since there is a high demand for Chinese speaking employees. The school also offers elementary school teaching for those who speak Chinese as their mother tongue or as a second language.

Number of international schools and day cares in Helsinki*



Source: Helsinginseutu.fi
* Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa