



Information for custodial parents regarding Swedish and Swedish as a second language

Järfälla elementary schools

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Growing up with several languages is a big advantage. Children who has a knowledge of several languages use them in different ways and in different formal and informal contexts.

It is very important that all pupils develop a rich and varied Swedish language in both speech and writing. This means that one must be able to use the Swedish language in many different ways in many different contexts. Learning Swedish as a mother tongue and learning Swedish as a second language are different things. One can quickly pick up an everyday language, but to master a school-related language, requires a lot of practice.

Teaching in Swedish/Swedish as a second language?

In the Swedish school, there are two Swedish subjects: Swedish and Swedish as a second language. There is the same amount of teaching time in both subjects and the grades have the same value for further studies at upper secondary school and university. The teaching of the subject Swedish is based on the assumption that the children have already achieved a good school language at the start of school. This implies that they speak fluent Swedish and have a largely correct command of the language in terms of pronunciation and grammar. A deeper linguistic understanding and a vocabulary developed for its age are also assumed.

Research today has shown that the most effective way to learn a language is that the teaching and the requirements are as close to the own language level as possible, and that the pupil is constantly challenged to a higher level from there. A pupil who is constantly surrounded by languages at too high of a level will not develop in the same manner, and therefore it is important that the school can offer just the right level of teaching within the criteria of writing, speaking, listening and reading.

How is the teaching of Swedish as a second language organized?

To be entitled to Swedish as a second language, the pupils must belong to one of the following three student categories:

- Pupils whose native tongue is a language other than Swedish.
- Pupils whose native tongue is Swedish, who have been admitted from schools abroad.
- Immigrant pupils who have Swedish as their main language of communication with a custodial parent.

(The School Ordinance SFS 2011:185, Chapter 5, Sections 14–15)

The teaching of Swedish as a second language can be organized in different ways at the municipality's schools. It can take place individually, in a small group or in a

whole class. The organization is decided based on the pupils' needs. Teaching Swedish as a second language is based on each student's linguistic prerequisites.

How does the school determine if my child needs Swedish as a second language?

At school, we continuously follow up all pupils' language development. We have different materials and methods we use to obtain information for decisions. The principal will have the final say whether a pupil will study Swedish or Swedish as a second language.

How long of period will my child be taught Swedish as a second language?

Teaching continues as long as the school considers that there is still a need for Swedish as a second language. Some pupils need teaching in Swedish as a second language throughout their school years. Others for a shorter period of time. Teaching cannot be had in both Swedish subjects at the same time.

Contact your child's school for more information.