

## 10 Secrets to Successful Early Learning in Finland

1. **The importance of play-based learning** – Children learn through meaningful play rather than formal instruction.
2. **Recognising every child's unique development** – Each child develops at their own pace, and learning is adapted to meet individual needs.
3. **Child-centred learning** – Children's interests, ideas and experiences guide learning opportunities.
4. **Observation-based assessment** – Practitioners observe children to understand their development instead of relying on formal testing in the early years.
5. **A highly respected education system** – Finland's success is built on highly trained teachers, professional trust and equality in education.
6. **Supporting children's holistic development** – Equal importance is given to children's physical, emotional, social and cognitive development.
7. **Encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving** – Children are encouraged to explore, question and develop their own ideas rather than memorising information.
8. **Helping children understand the impact of their actions** – Children learn responsibility, empathy and how their behaviour affects others through everyday experiences.
9. **Respecting individuality to support learning** – Practitioners recognise each child's strengths, interests and learning style to provide personalised support.
10. **Education and care are equally important** – Finnish Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) combines nurturing care with high-quality education, recognising both as essential for children's wellbeing and lifelong learning.