



Inclusion – being an important member of a social environment



Inclusion in the childcare facilities in Silkeborg Municipality, from early infancy to school age, means that we want all children to enjoy childhood and experience first hand what it is like to be an important member of a social environment. We want to give all children a genuine opportunity to take part in our community and be included on their own terms.

In order to live up to this, our staff makes a whole-hearted effort to create environments where there is room for diversity. This should allow all children to face challenges at an appropriate level and meet other children they can compare themselves with and learn from. And this environment must be a versatile setting that can change and develop according to the specific children involved.

As parents you help create a good framework for inclusion

You – as parents – play an essential role in our efforts to create a healthy environment for your children. Together we can create the best conditions for the children.

You know your own child but you also come across other children every day in our various preschool programmes, playgroups or through play dates and leisure time activities. The way in which you relate to both your own child and other children is really important to how the children thrive in the settings where you meet them. It is for example important to encourage and support the children to play with a variety of children in a group so that the children get an opportunity to bond and make friends and play with many other children.

How you talk about other children and what your child experiences with other children is also essential. Simply because the way we talk about each other is essential to how we perceive each other.





Children have the right to be part of a social environment

But why is inclusion important? It is important because recent studies show that children's well-being and their abilities to learn improve if they engage in various environments from an early age. In contrast to this children who are not given an opportunity to be part of a social environment are less likely to get an education and a job later in life. For this reason inclusion is about giving children the best options to get on in life as well as possible.

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>
- The Salamanca Statement: http://www.unesco.org/education/pdf/SALAMA_E.PDF

This is what you can do

- Support you child in playing with a variety of children. For example by encouraging your child to invite other children besides the usual friends to join a game. You can also organise play dates with children that your child does not normally play with.
- Be supportive of play groups and meal groups. A good idea is to take the initiative to make your own arrangements in your child-care setting.
- Be supportive of social activities such as volunteer handy work (typically a Saturday doing odd repairs at the childcare setting), joint meals for all families or excursions. Or organise activities that support the social environment of your child's childcare.
- Do not speak badly about your child's friends or other parents.
- Listen to your child when it is involved in a conflict with other children. Be interested in what the conflict concerns, and help your child find out how to solve the problem in a good manner. In this way, you can teach your child how to see both sides of the coin.