

## Services provided by the city of Lohja for children and young people



We welcome all children from Ukraine and their families to Lohja. Our services for children and young people are responsible for organising basic education, early childhood education, youth services, and social and family services for families with children.

This bulletin covers all the necessary information on how these services are organised in Lohja, including the necessary contact information. This bulletin has been prepared in both Finnish and English.

Lohja, 25. April 2022

Juha-Pekka Lehmus

Director of Education and Culture

City of Lohja

## Preparatory education

### Schooling for Ukrainian children

Children who have fled war should be afforded time to rest and adjust to safe living in Finland. There is no rush to get to school.

The organisation responsible for education will arrange preparatory teaching groups in Lohja as needed. We are gathering data on migrants who are of compulsory school age for our administration. The purpose of this is to plan where the preparatory teaching group or groups will be set up. Most Ukrainians who have come to our country for temporary protection have settled in the Karjalohja-Sammatti area.

Each Ukrainian child of school age should have the following survey completed on their behalf:

[Valmistavaan opetukseen ilmoittautuminen \(enrolment for preparatory education\)](#)

### Teaching organiser contact information

Liisa Saarniniemi, head of education

[liisa.saarniniemi@lohja.fi](mailto:liisa.saarniniemi@lohja.fi)

+358 44 374 3740

Kimmo Malmi, expert on children of school age

[kimmo.malmi@lohja.fi](mailto:kimmo.malmi@lohja.fi)

+358 44 374 3739



## What is preparatory education?

Preparatory education for basic education is intended for first- and second-generation immigrants whose Finnish or Swedish language skills and/or other skills are insufficient for basic education's group teaching.

The aim of preparatory education is to provide pupils with the necessary skills to participate in basic education groups and to promote their balanced development and integration into Finnish society. The main emphasis in preparatory education is on improving the pupil's skill in Finnish or Swedish. There is also additional teaching on the various subjects taught in basic education. Students who are illiterate will be offered education appropriate for their age and skill level. A personal curriculum is prepared for each pupil in preparatory education. Immigrant pupils are entitled to student welfare services during preparatory education. At the end of preparatory education, the pupils receive a certificate of participation.

Teaching happens in small groups, usually a maximum of ten pupils. A personal curriculum is prepared for each pupil and it transfers with them to their next school. Teaching is free of charge, and pupils receive a hot meal, books and notebooks at school. If a pupil needs a bus card because their distance to school is excessive, the pupil's municipality of residence pays for their travel to and from school. The municipality of residence also pays for school healthcare (school nurse, school doctor, and dentist).

Preparatory education typically lasts for one school year, after which the pupil transfers to a school in their own area. Preparatory education assesses the pupil's skills and the grade at which the pupil enters basic education.

### Information about Finnish education and schools

The Finnish comprehensive school lasts nine years. Schooling usually starts at seven years of age. Grades 1–6 are considered primary school and 7–9 are lower secondary school. At Lohja, all compulsory schools provide similar teaching. Almost all schools are maintained by the city. There are few private schools in Finland. After comprehensive school, about half of the pupils continue to upper secondary school and half to vocational school. Students qualify for upper secondary education by the average of their ninth-grade school report.

### Cooperation between school and home

Schools consider the cooperation of guardians and teachers to be highly important. Teachers invite guardians to an assessment discussion to inform them of the student's progress at school. Schools also host meetings for guardians (*vanhempainilta*, "parents' evening") to discuss general matters at school and meet the teachers. If guardians have questions about school matters, they can visit the school and meet the teacher or principal or make an appointment. Our schools use an electronic communication system, Wilma, where teachers can send messages to guardians about various events, celebrations, and trips organised by the school. Guardians can also use Wilma to send messages and questions to teachers.

In addition to teachers, important people at schools include:

- Principal – head of the school, supervises the teachers
- School curator – social worker, provides help and advice for problems
- School psychologist – helps students with learning
- Guidance counsellor – helps lower secondary school students with their studies and future education
- School nurse – works at the school and receives students who are ill or injured. The school nurse performs a health check on new students. The student's vaccination card must be presented to the school nurse at the health check.

## Early childhood education in Lohja

The city of Lohja offers diverse early childhood education and preschool education for children under school age based on national curricula and Lohja's own early childhood education curriculum. Our goal is to build a sustainable foundation for children's comprehensive growth, development, and learning in with their guardians. In early childhood education, children learn necessary knowledge and skills through play and other activities in ways that are natural for their age. Play is combined with experiences, exploration and learning. Social and emotional skills are also practised under adult guidance. The children will also receive sufficient exercise, study different things and phenomena, and have opportunities for artistic expression, all vital for healthy development and learning. The children are included in the planning and evaluation of the activities.



## Options for early childhood education

### ***Day-care centres***

Lohja has both municipal and private day-care centres. Municipal early childhood education is offered in Finnish and Swedish. Our day-care centres are open on working days from 6.00 to 18.00, according to the needs of the families. Round-the-clock centres are also open in the evenings, at night, and on weekends. Families have the right to round-the-clock care if both guardians work shifts.

### ***Open early childhood education***

Open day-care centres and park activities are intended for children under school age and their guardians or carers. Open early childhood education offers venues where children can play together and guardians can meet each other. The guided activities of open early childhood education are based on the objectives of the early childhood education plan. No registration is required for open early childhood education. In the Postikatu park, guardians also have the option to leave their child with carers for two hours for a small fee.

Club activities are organised in Routio in the Pihlajat club. The club is intended for children over 3 years of age. See <https://peda.net/lohja/varhaiskasvatus/vs/kjp> (in Finnish) for more.

***The Lohja parish also organises club activities.***

<https://www.lohjanseurakunta.fi/lapsille-ja-lapsiperheille/paivakerhot> (in Finnish)

### ***Private early childhood education***

Private early childhood education is provided by a private company or organisation that is subsidised and supervised by the city. As a private option, Lohja offers both day care and family day care. Applications for private early childhood education are made directly to the private day-care centre or carer. The city subsidises private early childhood education with service vouchers. It is also possible to apply for private early childhood education outside municipal boundaries if the service provider has an agreement with Lohja's early childhood education services.

### ***Preschool education***

Preschool education is an important time of growth in the life of a six-year-old. New skills – such as reading, writing, and mathematical thinking – are learned through play, exercise, experiments, and exploration. Social skills are practised with other children and adults. Skills for handling everyday situations, such as eating, dressing, and caring for oneself and others, are important for a child in preschool and learned with the support of an adult.

**Early childhood education service counselling** provides advice and guidance regarding municipal and private early childhood education services. If you need help planning your child's entry to early childhood education, you can contact the early childhood education service counsellor. The duties of the early childhood education service counsellor include, for example, client guidance, service coordination, and receiving and processing applications.

If you wish to discuss your child's current early childhood education, you can contact the supervisor of their early childhood education unit directly.



**Service counsellor Noora Ehrström, +358 44 374 5266,  
noora.ehrstrom@lohja.fi**

If the number is busy, please leave a call request on the answering machine (be sure to leave your phone number) or send it by text or email. The service counsellor is unavailable by phone on Thursdays.

### **Applications for early childhood education**

To begin, submit the electronic application **no later than four months before the desired start date.**

If the start date is uncertain **and the need for care is due to sudden employment or suddenly being accepted for studies,** the application must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than two weeks before the start date. If you are suddenly employed or accepted for studies, submit the early childhood education application and also contact the service counsellor by phone or email.

Visit [eAsiointi](#) to submit the early childhood education application.

**The electronic application is only available if the guardian and child both have Finnish personal identity codes. A paper form is also available for printing. [In english](#)**

In eAsiointi, you can do the following regarding early childhood education:

- Apply for early childhood education
- Enrol in preschool education
- Apply for a service voucher for private early childhood education
- Announce your child's care hours

## Links

**City of Lohja website, early childhood and preschool education:**

<https://www.lohja.fi/varhaiskasvatus-ja-opetus/varhaiskasvatus-ja-esiopetus/>

**Up-to-date information on early childhood education and day-care centre introductions are available on Peda.net:**

<https://peda.net/lohja/varhaiskasvatus>

## Social and special services for children, young people, and families

The Ukrainian refugees in Lohja need our help. The Lohja city recycling centre has been receiving donations to help Ukrainian refugees. Some items have already been delivered to emergency housing. Once the families move to their designated housing in Lohja, they can pick up clothes and household goods for free from the recycling centre at Nuorisotyöpaja Tuuma (youth workshop Tuuma), if donations are available.

### Contact information

Nuorisotyöpaja Tuuma/recycling centre

Sairaالات 4, 08200 Lohja

Youth workshop supervisor: Matti Hukkanen, tel. +358 50 521 1076

### Youth work



The regional youth work of the city of Lohja offers diverse activities for grades 5 and 6, as well as 13–18-year-olds. The activities are located in the districts’ youth centres, a total of nine around Lohja. Youth work provides stimulating and educational leisure activities in a safe environment where safe, adult instructors support and guide the participants. They also offer help, models, and different perspectives to support the healthy growth of children and young people. The children and young people can also influence the activities and take responsibility in the communal environment of the youth centre.

The activities are organised according to current COVID-19 pandemic instructions to make participation as safe as possible. Participants must follow the instructions of the youth workers and those posted in the centres.

*Regional youth centres and their respective youth workers*

<p><b>Pusula youth centre</b>          Marttilantie 3 A, 03850          Pusula          Head worker: Jimi Kiviniemi,          tel. +358 44 374 4374          Opening hours:          Grades 5 and 6          * Thursdays from 15.00 to 16.30          Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds          * Tuesdays from 17.00 to 20.00          * Thursdays from 17.00 to 20.00          * One Saturday/month from 18.00 to 22.00</p>	<p><b>Youth centre “Bunkkeri”</b>          Tiedonpolku 2–4, 09810          Nummi          Head worker: Jimi Kiviniemi,          tel. +358 44 374 4374          Opening hours:          Grades 5 and 6          * Fridays from 12.30 to 14.30          Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds          * Wednesdays from 14.30 to 18.00          * Fridays from 14.30 to 18.00</p>
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<p><b>Youth café “Dixi”</b>  Kullervonkatu 7, 08100  Lohja  Head worker: Olavi  Turpeinen, tel. +358 44 369  1450  Opening hours:  Ages 12–17  * Tuesdays from 16.30 to  20.00  * Wednesdays from 16.30  to 20.00  * Fridays from 16.30 to  21.00</p>	<p><b>Youth centre “Mesta”</b>  Havumetsäntie 4, 08350  Lohja  Head worker: Jesse  Leinonen, tel. +358 44 374  4377  Opening hours:  Grades 5 and 6  * Wednesdays from 14.00  to 16.30  Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds  * Wednesdays from 17.00  to 20.00  * Fridays from 17.00 to  22.00</p>
<p><b>Youth café “Kolo”</b>  Kangastie 24, 08500 Lohja  Head worker: Jesse  Leinonen, tel. +358 44 374  4377  Opening hours:  Grades 5 and 6  * Tuesdays from 16.00 to  18.00  Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds  * Tuesdays from 18.00 to  21.00  * Fridays from 18.00 to  22.00  * Saturdays from 18.00 to  22.00</p>	<p><b>Youth café “Kake”</b>  Lukkarinkuja 2, 08700 Lohja  Head worker: Taisto Soini,  tel. +358 50 518 9055  Opening hours:  Grades 5 and 6  * Wednesdays from 16.00  to 17.30  Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds  * Wednesdays from 17.30  to 20.00  * Fridays from 17.00 to  22.00</p>
<p><b>Youth centre “Kellari”</b>  Kalevalantie 2 B, 09220  Sammatti  Head worker: Jasmine</p>	<p><b>Youth centre “Katulamppu”</b>  Keskustie 46, 09120  Karjalohja  Head worker: Anni</p>

<p>Kajander, tel. +358 50 596 5697  Opening hours:  Grades 1–5  * Wednesdays from 16.00 to 17.30  * Fridays from 14.30 to 16.00  Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds  * Wednesdays from 17.30 to 20.00  * Fridays from 18.00 to 22.00  * Saturdays from 18.00 to 22.00</p>	<p>Juntunen, tel. +358 50 325 5169  Opening hours:  Grades 1–6  * Wednesdays from 16.00 to 17.30  * Fridays from 14.30 to 16.00  Grade 7, up to 17-year-olds  * Wednesdays from 17.30 to 20.00  * Fridays from 18.00 to 22.00  * Saturdays from 18.00 to 22.00</p>
<p><b>Belitalo Base</b>  Kullervonkatu 7, 08100  Lohja  Head worker: Olavi Turpeinen, tel. +358 44 369 1450  Opening hours:  For 12–20-year-olds  * Mondays from 16.00 to 20.00</p>	



For more information about youth work functions, visit [www.nuorilohja.fi](http://www.nuorilohja.fi) (in Finnish) or contact the youth centre head workers.

## Social and family services for families with children

Family social work supports the welfare of families with children under the age of 18 and helps their guardians with different life situations. For example, families' challenges may include issues related to the upbringing and daily rhythm of children, guardian fatigue, various illnesses affecting functional ability, internal family conflicts, unemployment, financial trouble, and substance abuse.

Family social work is transformative work. Its aim is to work with the family to ease the difficulties brought on by a life situation and to strengthen the family's inclusion and ability to function. Family social work helps families by social work and social counselling methods; all municipal services are available in addition to family work and home help. Family social work cooperates with people close to the family and other parties supporting the family.

### **Contact information for family social work:**

Street address: Laurinkatu 50, 08100 Lohja (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Service number: +358 500 486 101

### **Regional social workers:**

Anttila district:

\* deputy social worker Heidi Rinne, tel. +358 44 374 9515

Harju district:

\* deputy social worker Kristina Kelahaara, tel. +358 44 374

3261

\* social worker Riitta Kinosmaa, tel. +358 44 374 1158

\* social counsellor Erika Vainio, tel. ###374 1157

Järnefelt district:

\* social worker Gun-Viv Glad-Jungner, tel. +358 44 374 9418

\* social counsellor Susanna Haapala, tel. +358 44 374 0271

\* deputy social worker Sini Moilanen, tel. +358 44 374 3366

Mäntynummi district:

\* deputy social worker Susan Nuurto, tel. +358 44 374 9414

Nummi district:

\* social worker Ira Broman, tel. ###374 1161

Swedish-speaking service area:

\* social worker Gun-Viv Glad-Jungner, tel. +358 44 374 9418

\* social counsellor Suzanne di Rodi-Maukku, tel. +358 44 369 1172

**More information:** <https://www.lohja.fi/sosiaali-ja-terveyspalvelut/sosiaalipalvelut/lapsiperheiden-sosiaalipalvelut/> (in Finnish)

### *Family centres*

Family centres support the growth and development of children and promote the welfare and health of families by providing early support and assistance to guardians and children. The activities are open to all families with children.

#### **Family centres:**

\* Family centre "Purje", Mäntynummenkuja 7 A, 08500 Lohja

\* Aurlahti family centre, Liessaarenkatu 2 L, 08100 Lohja  
(mailing address: Ojamonkatu 36, 08100 Lohja)



Family centre services are available for families who need help with everyday care and education tasks or have difficulties in everyday life due to a challenging life situation sapping too much of their strength. For example, the family may have concerns regarding their child's development or struggle with fatigue, illness, or a life crisis.

### **Family centre services**

Family centre "Purje":

- \* Family counselling centre
- \* Maternity clinic and child health clinic
- \* Home help for families with children
- \* Preventive family work
- \* Postnatal psychologist
- \* Occupational therapy
- \* Speech therapy
- \* Neuropsychologist
- \* Child and young person research and rehabilitation working group
- \* Paediatric neurologist (referral required)

Aurlahti family centre:

- \* Maternity clinic and child health clinic
- \* Physiotherapy
- \* Speech therapy
- \* Preventive family work

**More information:** <https://www.lohja.fi/sosiaali-ja-terveyspalvelut/lapset-ja-peret/perhekeskukset/> (in Finnish)

## Hobby clubs (Finnish Model for Leisure Activities in Lohja)

Hobbies are a good way to explore new cultures, meet other children, and find meaningful daily activities. The Finnish Model for Leisure Activities is a project that organises free hobbies for all school-age children. For example, the offering includes sports (football, basketball, dancing, etc.), art, cooking, and animal clubs. The clubs are mainly organised on school premises and scheduled between 12.00 and 16.00. Separate applications are required for the clubs. Children are free to start in a club before starting their school education.

For more information about clubs, visit [bit.ly/suomenmallilohja](https://bit.ly/suomenmallilohja) (in Finnish).

You can also contact hobby coordinator Juha Koivuporras ([juha.koivuporras@lohja.fi](mailto:juha.koivuporras@lohja.fi), +358 44 369 5032).

