



# Welcome to Reykjavik!

## Let our dreams come true

*Implementing the Reykjavík Education Policy 2030*

Hjörtur Ágústsson

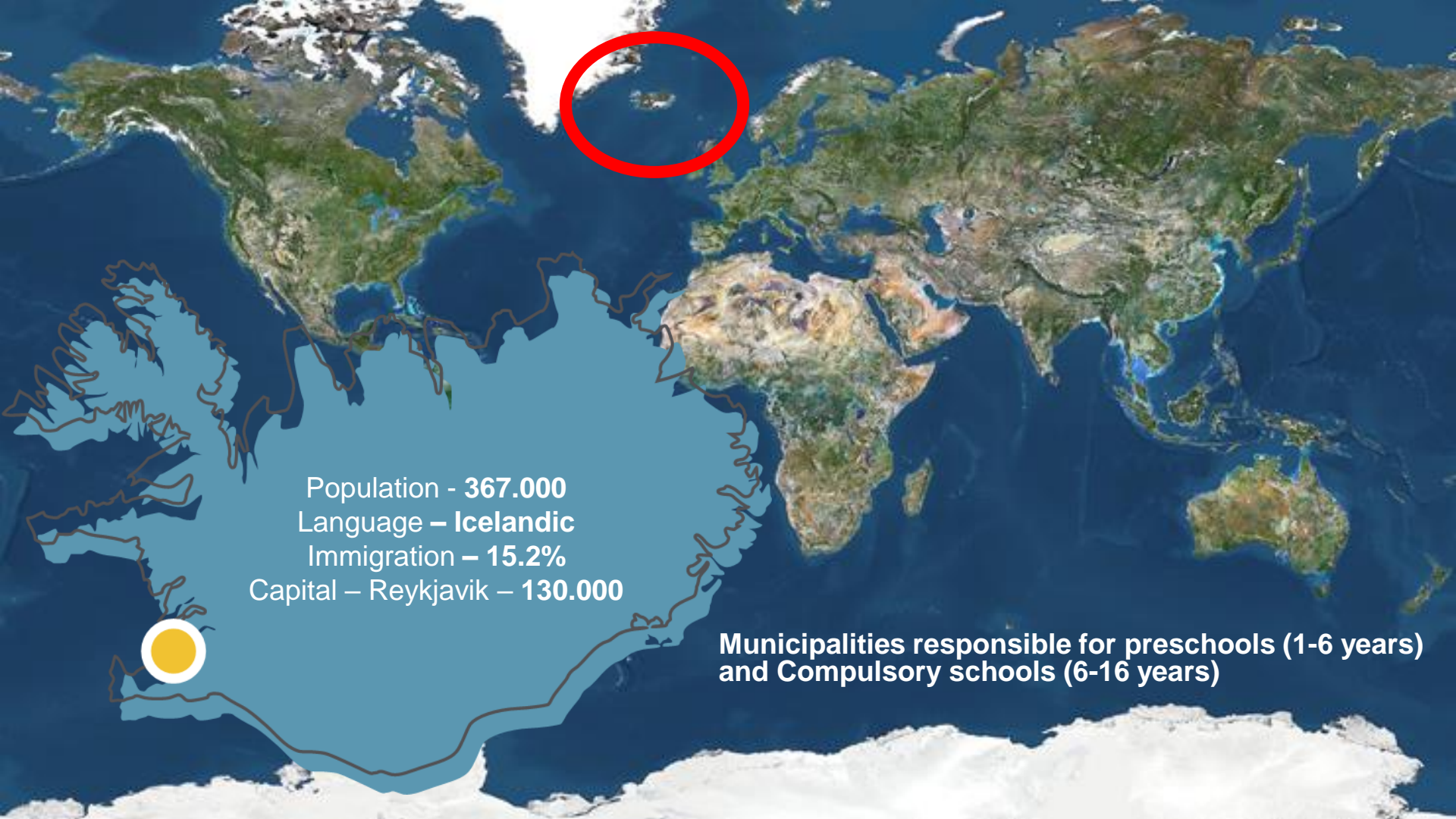
Centre for Innovation in Education

Reykjavíks' Department of Education and Youth



LÁTUM DRAUMANA RÆTAST





Population - **367.000**  
Language – **Icelandic**  
Immigration – **15.2%**  
Capital – **Reykjavik – 130.000**

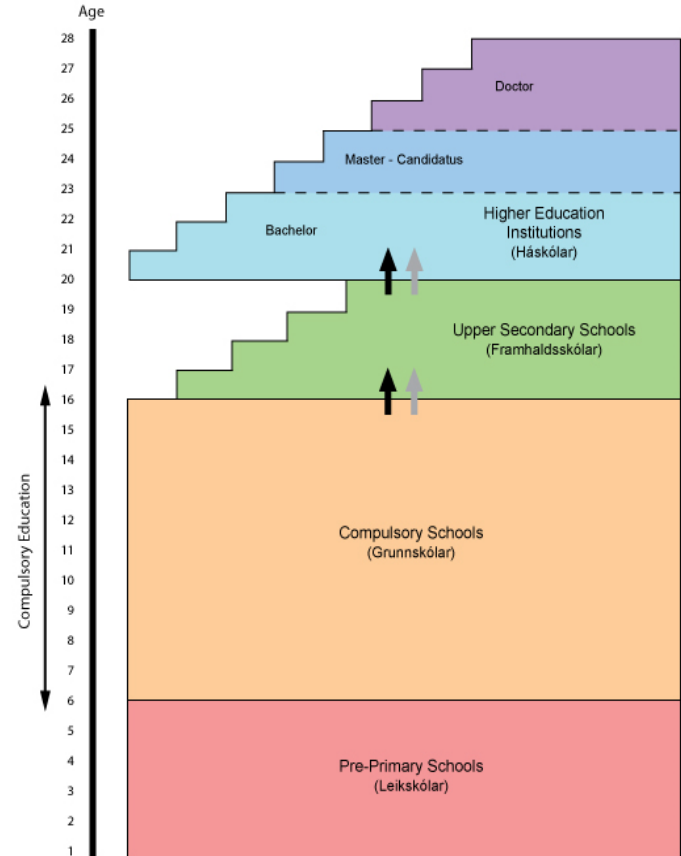
**Municipalities responsible for preschools (1-6 years)  
and Compulsory schools (6-16 years)**





# The Educational System in Iceland

- The system is divided into four levels
  - **Preschools:**  
2-5 years of age.
  - **Compulsory Schools:**  
6 – 16 years of age.
  - **Upper-secondary Schools:**  
16 – 19 years of age.
  - **Universities:**  
from 19/20 years of age.

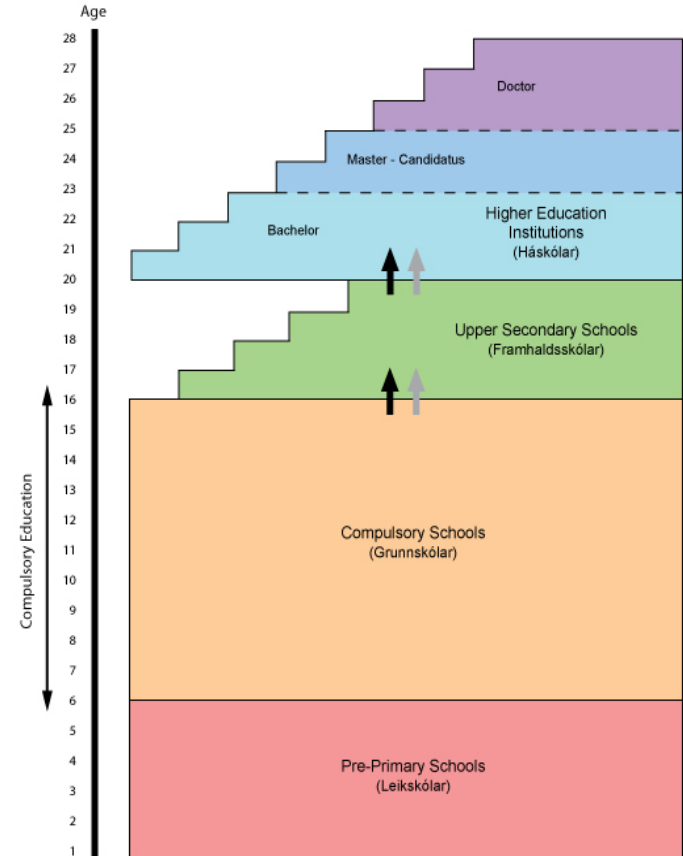






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# Reykjavik's Preschools and Compulsory schools

- 80 preschools (Play-schools) run by the city
  - 6.679 children from 12 months to 5 years (April 2021)
- 17 independent preschools
- About 550 children from 6-18 months stay with
  - 130 home-daycare individuals.
- 44 compulsory schools run by the city
  - 14.500 students from 6-16 years
- 6 independent compulsory schools
  - 700 students 6-16 years





# After school activities and youth centres

- 37 after school programmes
  - 6-9 years old
  - 4.600 children
- 24 youth centres
  - 10-15 years old
  - 4 of the 24 special youth centers for children with special needs.







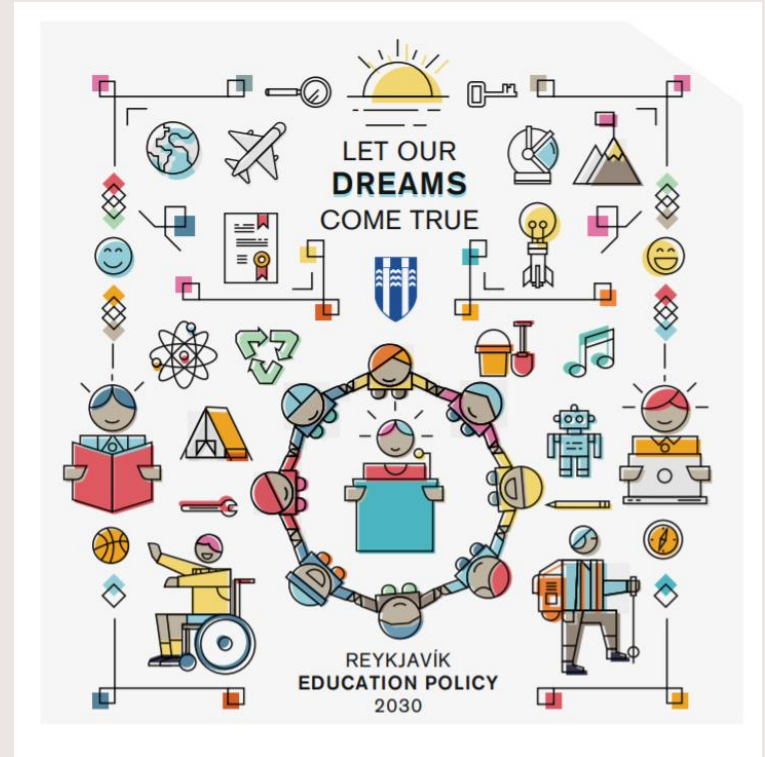
## Reykjavík's Department of Education and Youth

- 22.000 children 0-16 years
- 5.800 teachers/educators and other staff working in
- Preschools – Compulsory schools – Leisure centres
- School music bands – Adult education – Day care



# Developing the Reykjavík Education Policy 2030

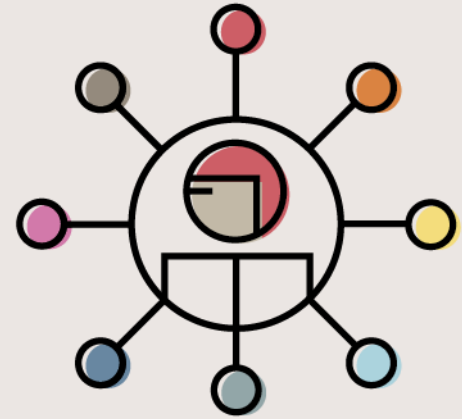
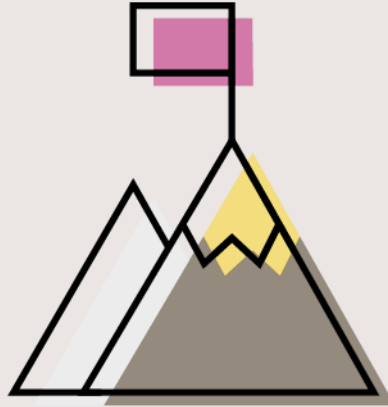
- Initiated by the Reykjavik City Council in January 2017
- Wide ranging consultation and democratic, participatory approach
  - 10.000 participants
  - Children, parents, teachers, public, academics, NGO, work force.....
  - Crowdsourcing among the public





# The question leading the work

What skills do we want our education system to have provided our children by 2030?





# Formal and in-formal

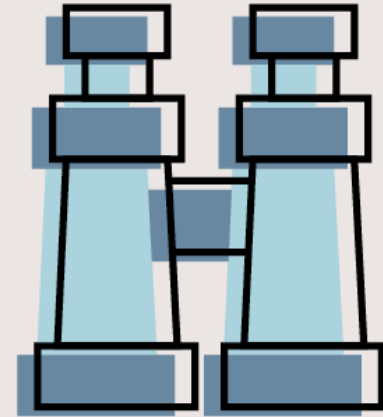






# The vision

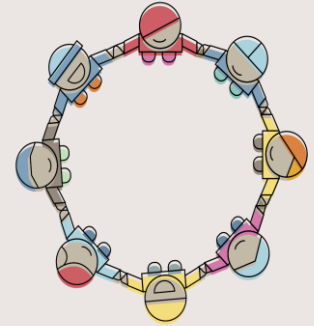
- Children and youth engage in dynamic educational experiences in the city's schools and leisure centres that allow them to **realise their dreams** and have a positive impact on society and the environment.





# Focus on inclusion

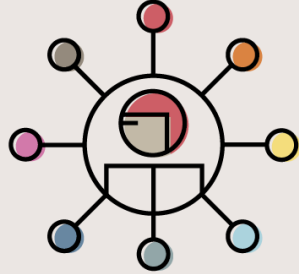
- Schools in Reykjavík are **inclusive** schools where all pupils are **active** and **recognized participants** in the school- community on **equal basis**. Students see themselves **reflected** in their curriculum and **diversity is honored**. All students are **respected** and attain their **best educational performance**. Inclusion is a constantly **developing process**, the schoolwork is **holistic** and **support** is offered **according to needs**.







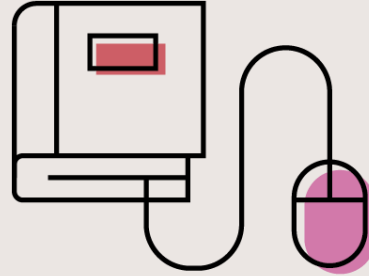
# Core Skills



**Social skills**



**Creativity**



**Literacy**



**Empowerment**



**Health**



# Actions that support implementation

- Centre of Innovation in Education
  - develop culture that supports innovation
  - provide platform for new projects
- Online platform [www.menntastefna.is](http://www.menntastefna.is)
  - Projects – toolbox – self evaluation tools
- International cooperation at the forefront
- Professional development
  - Collaboration with the University – School of Education
  - Courses, research, “dates” co-constructing new knowledge
  - Transforming learning – making everyday learning of children visible within the university







# Funding for innovation and development

## – 200 projects each year

- Implementation a process not a project
  - create a culture that encourages development and innovation
  - build trust to be innovative, take risks, make mistakes, adopt resilience and a growth mindset in a learning community
- Educators in the field integrate the policy relative to their particular conditions, in close collaboration and through the active participation of children and youth
  - The five core skills lay the foundation of the future fusion skills
  - Projects focusing on diverse elements f.ex: sleep and wellbeing, formative assessment, working with diversity, language and literacy, digital youth, environmental issues...





# Disability services and education in Iceland

*Klettaskóli school for children with special needs*

**Valgerður Marinósdóttir**  
Project manager



**Klettaskóli**  
- menntun fyrir lífið

LÁTUM DRAUMANA RÆTAST







# Screening and diagnosis

- Home visits by nurses/midwives in infancy for all
- Screening of infants and pre-schoolers often is the first indication of difficulties
- Disability diagnosis takes place at The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre, University Hospital, Vision centre as well as the Hearing and speech pathology centre.
- After diagnosis specialized services are available
- Supports are a part of the social services provided by the municipality





# Preschool (under 6 yo)

- Funded by municipality, few private schools (14%)
- Parents pay a subsidized fee
  - half day, 4 hrs £ 55 a month
  - full day, 8 hrs £ 140 a month
- No additional fees for special needs children and their services (i.e. additional staff, specialized staff)
- Screening and referral for diagnosis
- Inclusion and early intervention
- 40% of 1 year olds attend, and 95% of 2-5 year olds
  - 7.6% receive special support





# Compulsory/primary school (6-16 yo)

- Funded by municipality, few private schools (7%)
- The general principal is mainstream education for all students, regardless of disability
- All students have right to attend their local school and receive the support they need
- Most schools have a classroom to meet special needs
  - students attend these classrooms based on their individual needs, i.e. for reading, social skills or individual instruction
- 28% of school children receive support
  - 10% in special class room, 4% in class, 14% both





# Compulsory/primary school (6-16 yo)

- Specialised school services
- There are 5 ASD schools within schools and 1 for deaf and hard of hearing students
- 2 special schools, Klettaskóli and Brúarskóli
  - Klettaskóli – requires a diagnosis of moderate intellectual disability OR mild intellectual disability in addition to another disability
  - Brúarskóli – is for students with severe mental, behavioural or social issues and is a temporary placement (1-2 terms)
- School bus for children with disabilities





# After school (6-10-16 yo)

- After school services (school clubs) are available to all students from 6-10 years old
  - special needs students in general schools attend with their peers
- Special needs children can attend after school services to the age of 16
- Subsidised by the municipality
  - Fee £ 70 a month for 5 days a week
- Open during school vacations





# College/secondary school (16-20)

- Government funded
- Duty to educate to the age of 18, all students have the option to attend college/secondary school
- Registration fee £ 130 per year
- Special education track at college is for students that have received considerable special education
- Of the 36 colleges in Iceland, 17 have Special education track
- Individual curriculum, traditional academics, arts and crafts and job-training
- After school services from 13:00-17:00





# Supports services

- **From municipality**

- Respite homes where children stay for few days a month up to a week a month
  - Available from 6 yo
- Social companion
  - 6-12 hrs a month, more if needed for exceptional circumstances
- Support family
  - 1 weekend a month
- Additional services available

- **From government**

- Care allowance to persons who support disabled and chronically ill children



# Other Services

- Camp for special needs children
  - limited availability, waitlist
  - 1-2 weeks during summer
  - 1-2 weekends during winter
  - comparable to cost of other camps
- Sibling workshop
  - For siblings of special needs children
- Multiple independent organisations
  - Most began with parents or family members
  - THE BENEFIT SOCIETY OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
  - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES







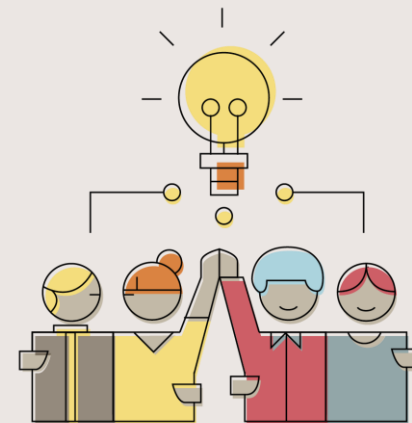
# Adults with disabilities

- Adult – 18 yo
- Living arrangements
  - Independent living with varying degrees of support
    - drop in, phone check-in, assistance during specific hours
  - Housing centre- with staff flats
    - individual flats in a larger house with shared areas
    - live in or live out support
  - Group homes, with private room and shared common areas
    - no new homes like this are being built/opened
    - moving away from this type of living arrangement in Iceland
    - fading out



# Work opportunity for adults with disabilities

- Workshop
  - Places that only people with disabilities work
  - With professional staffing to assist them
- Employment with assistance
  - Varying degrees of support
  - On the job training
  - Follow-up







# Klettaskóli - ideology

The school's ideology is that each and every student is served where he/she stands in relation to development and education. In order for that to be possible, it is therefore important for the school to be constantly seeking the best and most fitting methods and actions.





# Our outside area







# Klettaskóli - students

- One of the 2 special schools in Iceland
- Compulsory/primary school, age 6-16
- Our students have a variety of disorders and complex needs including, intellectual impairment, Autism spectrum disorder, Cerebral Palsy, speech, language and communication needs, developmental disorder and Downs syndrome to name a few.
- Ten grade levels with 120 students 2015-16
  - 0,3 % of the school population in Iceland
  - classes of 8 to 16 students
  - 5 students in a satellite school





# About 120 diagnostic codes 2022-2023

- 117 students on this picture, all with intellectual disabilities
- 79 autism spectrum
- 50 motor function disorder
- 44 chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung or kidney
- 21 epilepsy
- 33 syndromes
- 29 CP or other physical impairment
- 22 foreign parent(s)
- 24 ADHD
- 31 social difficulties
- 7 vision or hearing impairments
- 4 depression or anxiety
- Based on diagnostic codes from at The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre
- Not all diagnostic codes are included (i.e. premature baby, microcephaly)
- Children may receive additional diagnosis from others later that are not included, for example ADHD or obesity.





# Klettaskóli - staff

- 170 staff with a wide range of education and experience
  - Teachers, social educators (pedagogue), kindergarten teachers, special education teachers, physical education teachers, arts and crafts teachers, music teachers,
  - Psychologist, social worker and behavioral specialist
  - Teaching consultant, technology teaching consultant
  - As well as instructors (school assistants/paraprofessionals)
    - in-house training



# Schoolweek - individual plan



Sample week: 9 year old student

Morning meeting

Communication – library

Snack

Recess

Classroom work – group

Individual work

Wheelchair dance

Social studies

Home economics

Arts and crafts Woodwork/textiles

Music

Physical education

Snoozelen

Smart board

Mánudagur	Þriðjudagur	Miðvikudagur	Fimmtudagur	Föstudagur
samverustund 	samverustund/ morgunsöngur 	samverustund 	samverustund 	samverustund 
frásögn bókasafn 	samfélagsfræði 	Vinnustund 	sjúkrahjálfun vinnustund 	textilmennt 
nesti 	nesti 	nesti 	nesti 	nesti 
frímínútur 	frímínútur 	frímínútur 	frímínútur 	frímínútur 
smartafla heimiisfræði 	Sköpun 	Bekkjartími 	íþróttir 	bekkjartími 
Vinnustund 	bekkjartími 	Bekkjartími 	íþróttir 	hönnun og smíði 
hjólástólalands 	sjúkrahjálfun 	frímínútur 	frímínútur 	sund 
matur 	matur 	matur 	matur 	
bekkjartími 	tónmennt 	skynörvun 	myndmennt 	matur/samverustund 
skóla lýkur 13:10	skóla lýkur 13:10	skóla lýkur 13:50	skóla lýkur 13:10	skóla lýkur 13:50





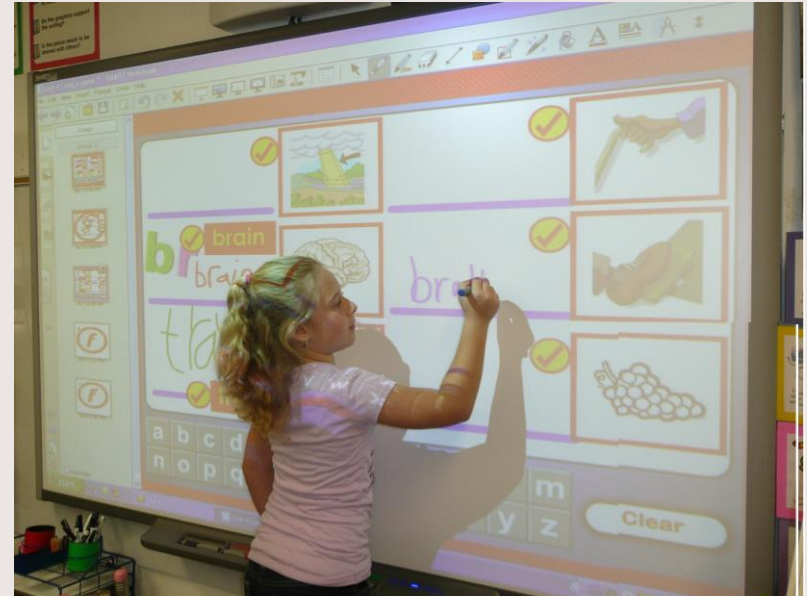
# Classroom – group work





# Classroom

- Every classroom has a SMART board
- Klettakóli is eco-school
- We find ways to use Smart boards instead of papers as much as we can





# Snoezelen - controlled multisensory environment





# Physical education





# Physical education





# Arts and crafts





# Home economics





# Outdoor classroom







# Additional services at Klettaskóli

Children receive direct services as well as consulting with classroom staff from:

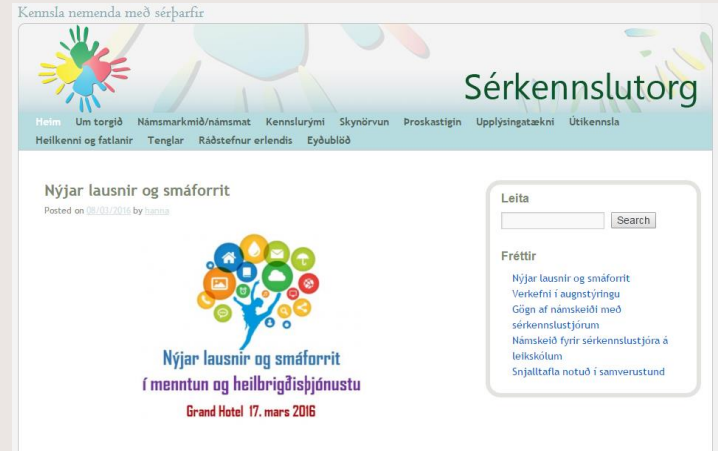
- Physical therapist and occupational therapist
  - Therapy, fittings, adjusting aids, placing orders for aids
- Speech and language pathologist
  - assessment, limited treatment, consulting with classroom staff and families





# Klettaskóli - consulting

- The school also serves as consultant for other schools nationwide.
- Our consultants are available for other schools that serve children with special needs as well as our faculty.
- Special education exchange
  - Website with special education resources
  - Managed by Klettaskóli











# Klettaskóli - Methods

## *Teacch*

Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication handicapped Children).



## *ABA*

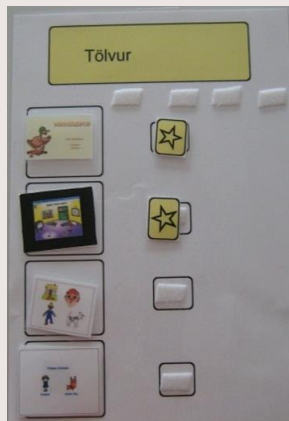
Applied Behavior Analysis





# Tools

## Token - rewards



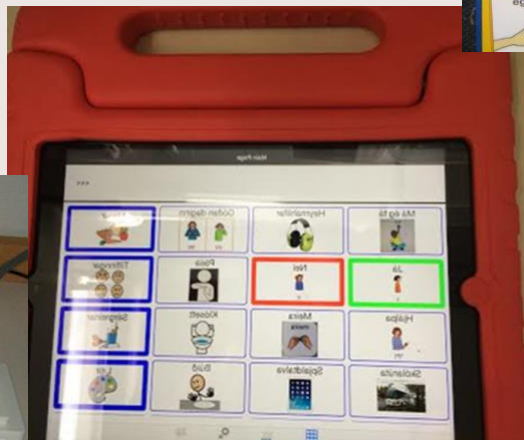
## Jelly-bean knob



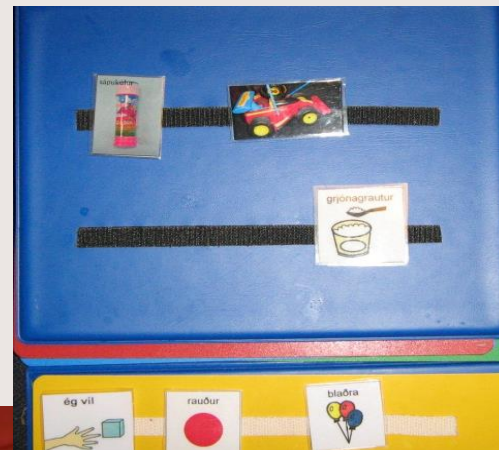
## Communication book



## Ipads



## PECS (Picture Exchange Communication)



## CAT kit





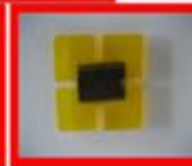
# Visual cue and schedule



## Mánudagur



Samverustund/frásögn



Standur/l-pad



Samfélagsfræði



Útikennsla



Saga/rofi



# Visual cues and schedule



<b>Þriðjudagur</b>	
Mæting	
Samverustund	
Sjónræðisálfun	
8:30-9:00	
Vinnustund	
Nesti	
Friminútur	
Hreyfingálfun	
Hreyfingálfun	
Mataræði	
Útivera/næðisstund	
Tónmennt	
Gulahlá	

baka	elda	svunta	rifjárn	sigti	skeið
viskustykki	skál	sleif	hrærivél	hnífur	kökukefli
ausa	örbylgjuofn	teskeið	svunta	sleikja	bretti
þeyta	hræra	brytja niður	kartöflufliksjari	spáði	pottur
vigt	diskur	ofnskúffa	hveiti	sykur	púðursykur

When I get angry I sometimes hit Mummy.	This makes Mummy sad.	When I feel like hitting, I need to stop.
I will hold my hands.	I will take 5 big breaths. This helps me stay calm.	Mummy is happy when I am calm.



# Communication

- All types of communication are equal
  - Visual cues
  - Simple sign language
  - Verbal/non verbal



<p>sitja</p>	<p>hafa hljótt</p>	<p>hlusta</p>	<p>læra</p>
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góður



dagur



# Thank you



City of Reykjavík

Department of Education and Youth



**Klettaskóli**  
- menntun fyrir lífið

For more information you are welcome to contact us:

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