

Liisa Lahermaa

A PRACTICAL NURSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN AT A DAY CARE CENTRE IN FINLAND

“We would eat a little, sleep a little and play a lot”

A child's definition of an ideal day at a day care center / kindergarten by the survey
“Finnish Day Care” by Eeva Hujala and Päivi Lindberg.

An example of a daily schedule

6.30/7.00

Doors open

Free play, games, story reading

8.15

Breakfast

Morning circle

Guided activities/ small groups activities (for example art and crafts, music, physical education, free play)

Outdoors

11.15

Lunch

Story reading

Rest and sleep

Free play

14.00/14.30

Snack

Games, free play, story reading

Outdoors

17.30/ 18.00

Doors closed

Practical nurse always works as a team member. Usually to this team belongs another practical nurse and a kindergarten teacher. The kindergarten teacher has always the pedagogical responsibility of the group of children.

During the work day a practical nurse takes care of the basic care of children with other team members. He/she guides and supports children in basic care situations during the

day. Basic care situations are dressing and undressing, rest and sleep, eating and nutrition, outdoors and toilet training/ hygiene and these situations take place daily many times.

Practical nurse also recognizes the strengths and needs, related to the growth and development of children. He/she also sets goals that support the child's growth and development together with his/her team members.

Practical nurse also acts on the basis of long-term and short-term plan which support the child's growth and development. He/she guides a group of children and implement different activities.

He/she always assesses his/her own work and ponders his/her vocational development.

Practical nurse communicates daily with the children's' parents in the mornings and in the evenings. He/she attends to the parent's individual meetings concerning child's growth and development and to the parents' evenings. Practical nurse attends to the team meetings and to the day care center meetings.

Practical nurse as a team member makes sure the environment is safe for all the children physically and mentally/physiologically. He/she makes sure that the atmosphere is warm and tolerant. Vocational ethics must show in his/her work. He/she must respect child's family's values and cultural background.

Practical nurse needs to update his/her knowledge of his/her work. Practical nurse abides principles, regulations and provisions concerning the field of social health care.