

# Outdoor Education principles in Estonia

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# Principles



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All age groups can benefit from outdoor learning:

- Kindergarten kids
- Pupils
- Adults

Most financing for outdoor learning projects comes from the Environmental Investment Center – a state foundation funded by environmental levies. You can find more information about it here:

<http://www.kik.ee/en>.



# Raising environmental awareness in kindergartens



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- All fields of study in the **curriculum** of kindergartens are linked to the environment (*math, language skills, music, physical education, the environment and oneself*)
- The **strategic development plans** of kindergartens include goals for the environment and steps to achieve those goals
- Kindergartens will conduct curricular learning programmes **outdoors** every day: in the kindergarten yard, in parks and in nature

# Enquiry learning starts already in kindergarten



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# Raising environmental awareness in schools



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1. Education for sustainable development as a cross-curricular theme since 1996
2. Everyday use of **outdoor learning**:
  - School yards
  - Museums
  - Enterprises
  - Environmental education centres
3. We have made it compulsory to complete a creativity project at the end of primary school, and a research project at the end of high school. Most of these end up being about the environment, with data collected in nature or an urban setting.



There are broadly two approaches:

- 1) **Object based:** outdoor learning takes advantage of the available objects and resources that can be seen and interacted with and focus teaching aspects related to this new environment, or inspired by it.
- 2) **Subject based:** people prefer studying outdoors because the environment is more pleasant, e.g., there's fresh air. But they focus on teaching what they would have otherwise learned in class, such as mathematics or history unrelated to the new environment.

1. Work related training, e.g., for teachers
2. Trips organized by people's universities or other educational associations. For example, every weekend the Nature Omnibus takes anyone who's interested on trips to nature.



*Tuhala nõiakaev keeb. Foto: Kaido Einama*

**Keskkonnaharidus**  
Shapes the way of thinking

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## Keskkonnaharidus.ee mediates information on environmental education opportunities in Estonia.

We aim to support teachers and nature enthusiasts by providing information on nature centres, educational programmes and educational materials.

Map Satellite

**Estonia**

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FEBRUARY 2016

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28 This folk evening with Valdur Mikita 07/15

VIEW ALL EVENTS

**ARUKAS SORDIB, ARUTU PÕLETAB!**

ÕPPEVAHENDITE LAENUTAMINE

Estonia has 134 environmental education centres which offer programmes and trips

# Outdoor learning has different forms



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