

Helisten compares Moomin Language School to language immersion.

- We don't have any specific language learning objectives for children this young. Instead, the goal is that they hear the foreign language regularly and as much as possible. The learning doesn't cover only language, but culture as well: for example, in a group with Russian-speaking children we have organized a Russian tea party for the group, and we have learned English by taking an imaginary trip to London. Learning is more meaningful when the children understand why we need language skills.

### Grateful parents, excited children

Was the decision difficult to get approved on a municipal level?

- When we explained the research behind the decision, the reception was positive. We have to remember that if language learning is too theoretical, it diminishes the children's courage to use the language. Moomin Language School focuses specifically on practical language skills and the children are encouraged to speak the language. Early education teachers also welcomed the new method.

- Naturally, the service was something new and had to be integrated into the routines and the rhythm of the week, but feedback from the teachers has been very positive. According to them, the method works and it even helps the teachers to expand their views on language and culture. Also, the technology required to use the service is easy to adopt.

Children and parents have been especially excited about Moomin Language School.

- If we have to postpone the Moomin session for some reason, without fail the children will ask why and when the session will happen. Parents have given us direct feedback as well: when some of the children stayed home because of the pandemic and we gave them the option to continue using the service at home, we received grateful phone calls from parents.

Helisten recommends adopting Moomin Language School in early education on a municipal level.

- We need to think about what skills children will need in the future and how they are being raised. In an ever-shrinking world we are all globally connected. Learning about language and culture in early childhood increases tolerance and understanding toward other cultures as well as other individuals. It's a great way to help children build their values and prepare them for the future, says Sirkka Helisten.



### Moomin Language School:

- A digital, gamified application for early language learning
- Designed by language teachers
- Teaches English and Finnish as a second language
- Utilizes Finnish teaching methods
- Includes lesson plans for playful teacher-led learning sessions
- A research-based method which ensures excellent learning results
- Loved by children and teachers alike



**MOOMIN**  
LANGUAGE SCHOOL

