

Table 1.National Information

Iceland

	EC sector	Primary school
Age of children	1-5 years	6-16 years
Policy responsibility at central level	Ministry of Education	Ministry of Education
Operational responsibility at regional level (leave blank if not relevant)	Ministry of Education	Ministry of Education
Operational responsibility at local level	Municipalities	Municipalities
% proportion of public, non profit and for-profit provision	Public 87% For-profit 13%	Public 95% For-profit 5%
Annual public funding per child	Playschools: 1.268,7 Krona or 8.693,30Eu	1.093,6 krona or 7.493,49 Eu
Levels of access – what percentage of children in the age group attend	Playschools: 1 year old 31% 2 year old 91%, 3 year old 95%, 4 year old 95%, 5 year old 93%	Primary schools: 6 year old – all children
Average hours of attendance per day of children	Playschools: Average attendance 8 hours	5.5 hours + afterschool program
Do national or regional curricula or guidelines exist	Playschools (1-5 years) yes	yes
Do the curricula include guidelines concerning transitions or continuity	yes	yes
How would you describe the continuities that exist between early years and primary schools.	Could be improved	
What is the relationship between ECEC staff and primary school staff? Close, distant, very distant	Playschool (1-5 years) staff with Primary School staff - distant	
Do the curricula include guidelines concerning emergent literacy	Limited except for language development, story telling, reading aloud for the children etc.	Yes
Job titles of lead contact staff and assistant staff involved (please provide original language title and a literal translation)	Lead contact staff: Playschool teachers (leikskólakennarar) Assistant staff : Playschool assistants	Lead contact staff: Teachers Assistant staff: Assistants
Length and level of initial training of lead staff and assistant staff	Lead contact staff: 3 years university degree Assistant staff : Varies	Lead contact staff: 3 years university degree Assistant staff: Varies
Days per year entitlement to in-service training of each category	Not defined in wage contract	Lead contact staff: 19 days
% of lead staff with graduate training as a proportion of all staff	34%	90%
What is your opinion of the suitability of staff in terms of qualifications, experience and motivation for development	Lead contact staff: Good training but too few Assistant staff: varies	Lead contact staff: Good Assistant staff: varies
Average number of children per teacher, e.g. 10:1	Playschool (1-3 years): 5:1 Playschool (3-6 years): 10:1	19:1
Salaries of teachers per annum in Euros	22.500 Euros	23.500 Euros
Required working hours per week	43.7 hours a week, including preparation	42.86 hours a week , including preparation
Occupational status of ECEC staff –	Lead contact staff: Medium.	Lead contact staff: Medium

high, medium, low	Assistant staff: Low	Assistant staff: Low
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Table 2. Curriculum features across the countries

Country	Curriculum name	Age group covered	Author and responsible levels	Main content orientations	Literacy orientation	Open framework or adult-driven	Other initiative related to Curriculum	Curriculum implementation features	Assessment process
Iceland	1999 National Curriculum Guidelines playschool (1-5 years)	1-5 years	Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural sciences ▪ Socio-cultural ▪ Creativity ▪ Arts ▪ Play ▪ Language ▪ Movement ▪ Life skills 	No explicit literacy orientation. Emphasis placed on language acquisition and language development	Open framework: Guidelines address process rather than content. Child agency	Revision of curricula is in progress Continuous quality development by the Ministry and municipalities	Child:staff ratios from 5:1 for under 3 years to 10:1 for 5-6 years. Playschool teachers trained in early childhood education (social pedagogic). The proportion of graduate teachers is low (about 40%)	Mainly portfolio and individual plan assessment In some playschools assessment of language