

# Unique Finnish ECEC system and Early Childhood Teacher Education as key elements ensuring the equitability and quality of ECEC

Dubai Expo



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# Content of this presentation

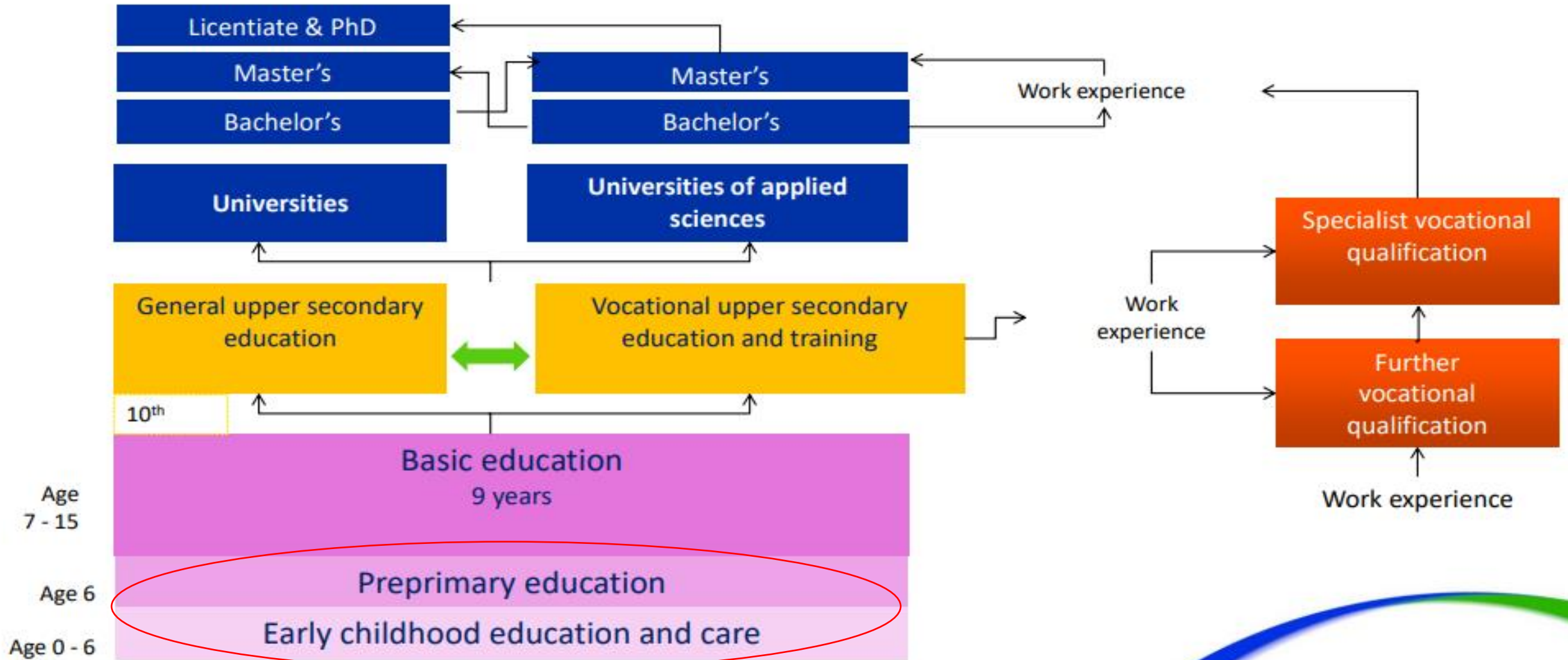
- Introduction to Finnish ECEC system and recommendations for evaluating the quality of Finnish ECEC
- Introduction to Finnish Early Childhood Teacher Education and its developmental quality issues
- Introduction to University of Turku, Campus of Rauma BA-programs



# Continuous learning is valued in Finnish Educational System

Finnish National Agency for Education, Kauppinen  
(2011)

## No dead-ends in the education system





# The Right to Learn development programmes

- aim to secure an equal start for learning by improving quality and equality in early childhood education and care (ECEC) and comprehensive school education.

## Right to Learn goals for ECEC:

1. We will create equal conditions for learning paths
2. We will promote learning support
3. We will create a more flexible start for learning
4. We will improve the quality of ECEC

- The Ministry of Education and Culture will implement the programmes between 2020 and 2022.

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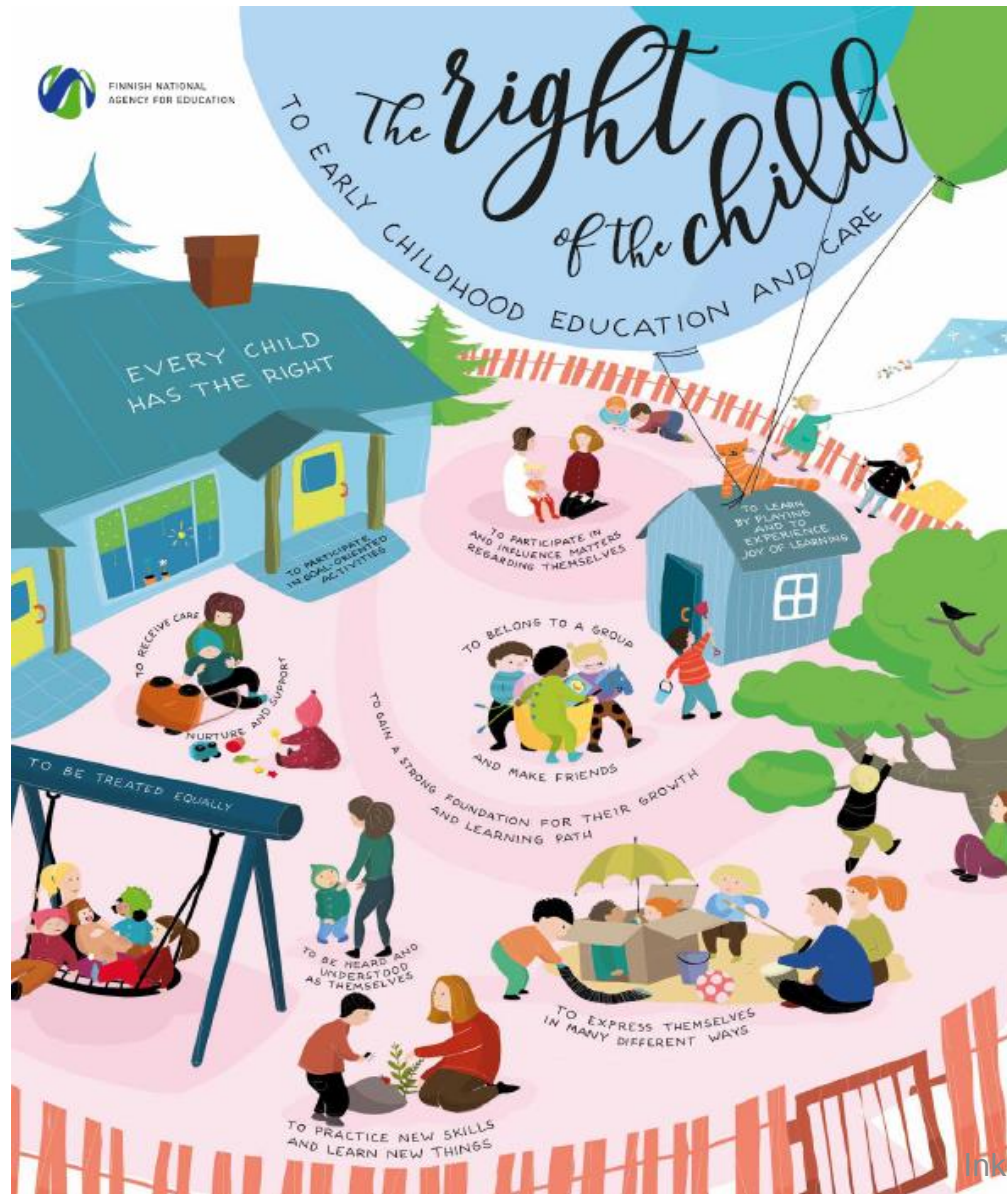
# THE RIGHT TO LEARN

AN EQUAL START ON THE LEARNING PATH

**EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION AND CARE**

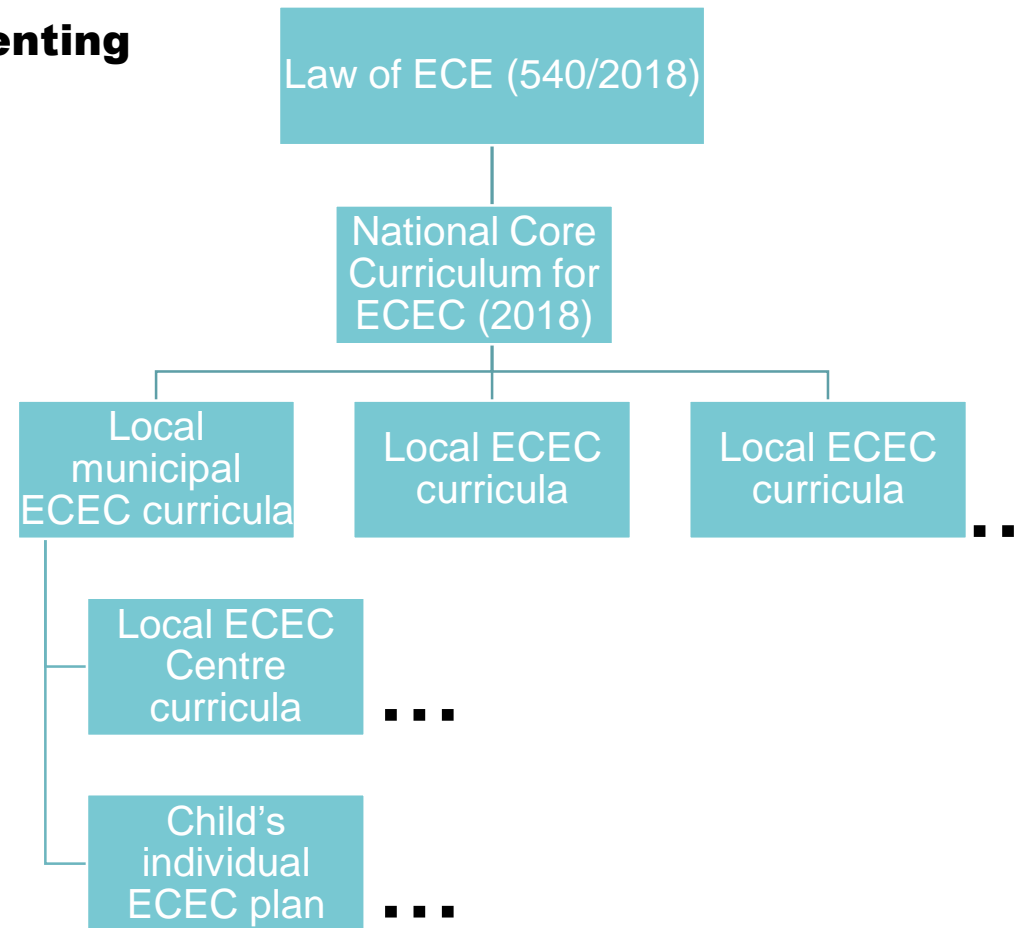
PROGRAMME FOR QUALITY AND EQUALITY 2020-2022

# Early childhood education form the bases for lifelong learning



- The mission of Finnish ECEC is to promote:
- the intrinsic value of childhood
- growth as a human being
- children's holistic growth, development and learning in collaboration with their guardians.
- learning through play
- wellbeing of children
- equity, equality and diversity
- healthy and sustainable way of living
- ***planning from national level to local and individual level***

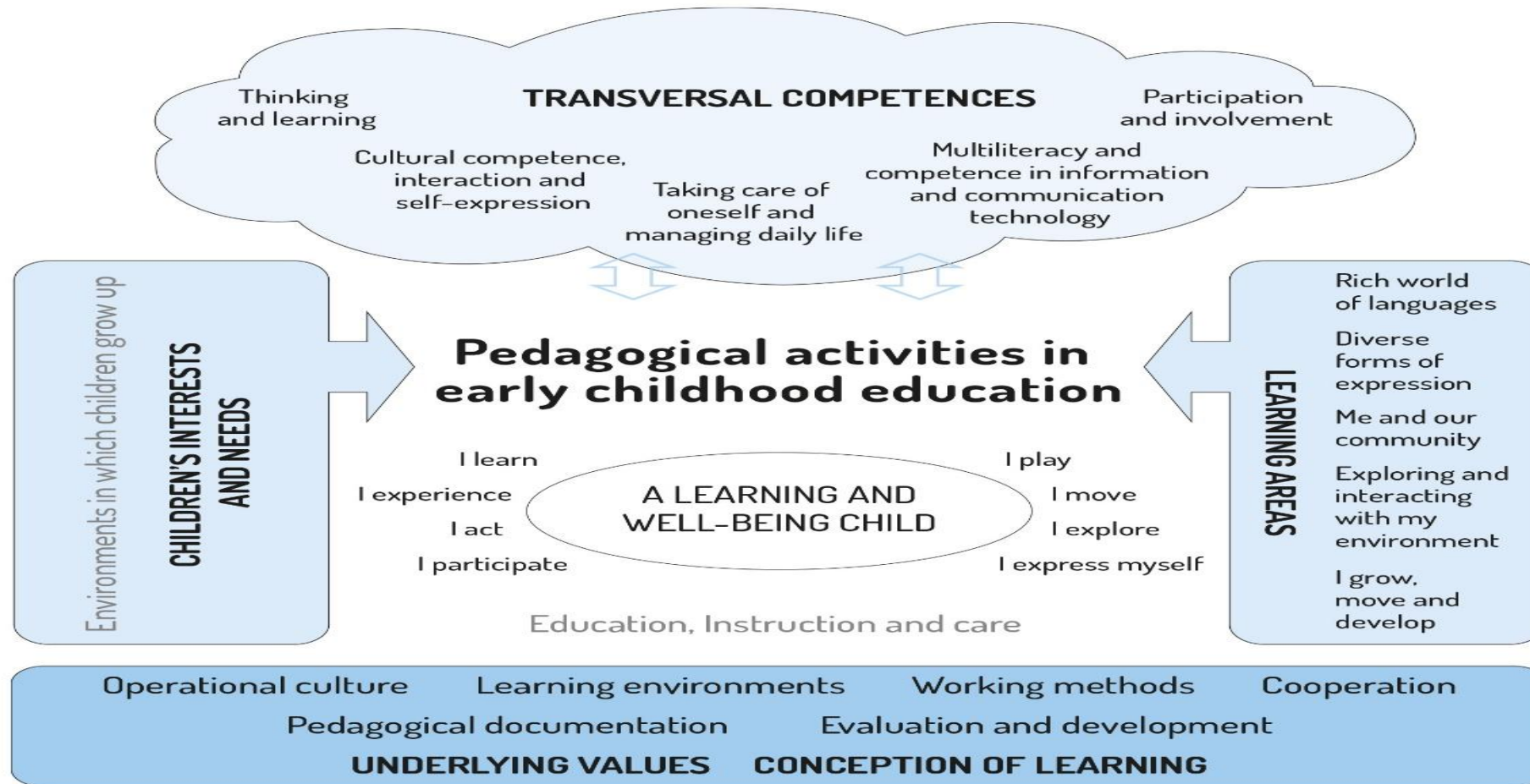
**Curriculum planning, implementing  
and evaluation  
from national to local  
and individual level**



- Finnish ECE Act (2018) draws up the guidelines for **national core curriculum for ECEC**, which is a basis for local curricula.
- An individual ECEC plan is drawn up for each child in ECEC centres and in family daycare.
- ***Same system in pre-primary education curriculum planning according to the Act of Basic Education.***



# The Framework for pedagogical activity of Finnish Early Childhood Education and Care



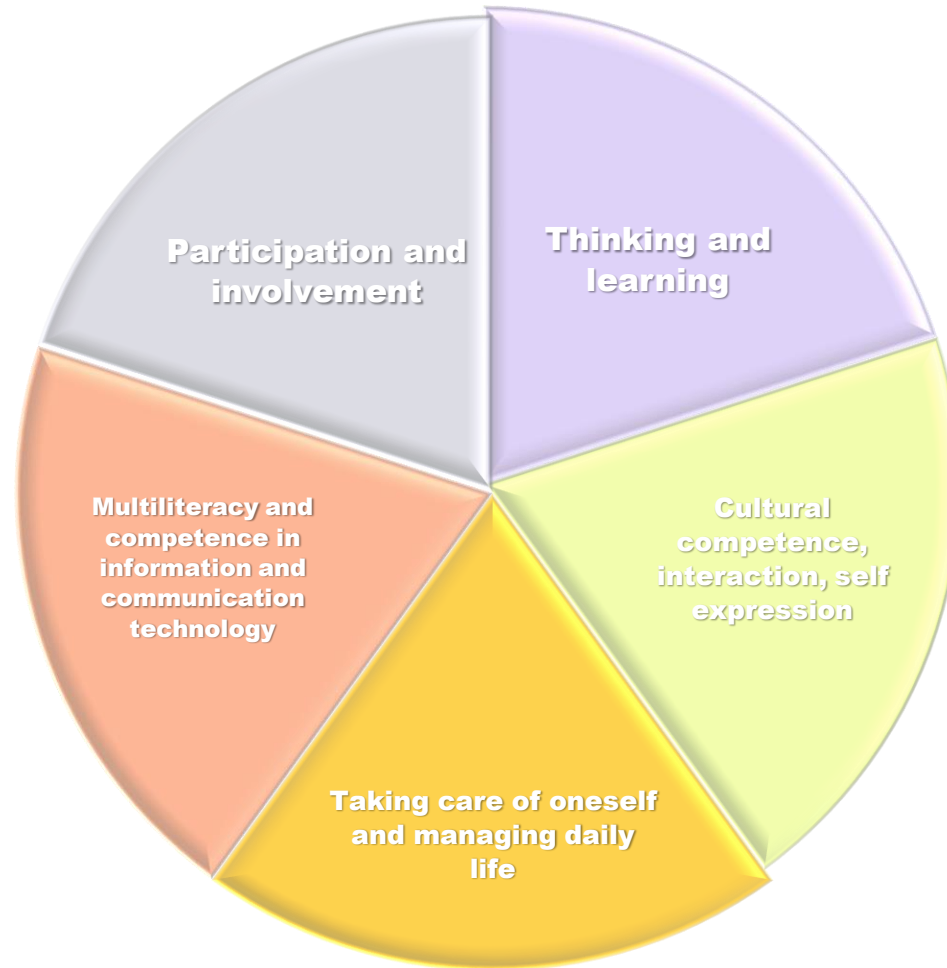
# The conception of learning in ECEC

- The entity of education, instruction and care with pedagogical emphasis
- A holistic approach in promoting child's growth, development and learning
- Children's development is supported ensuring that they learn to act as well as to use their competence also for the good of other people
- In ECEC the care situations are always both educational and instructive situations where children learn e.g. interaction skills, taking care of oneself, time management and good habits.



# Transversal competences consists of

- **Knowledge**
- **Skills**
- **Values**
- **Attitudes**
- **Will**



# Planning and implementing pedagogical activity

- Aim is to promote children's learning and wellbeing and transversal skills
- Versatile working methods
- Play as source of holistic pedagogy and learning
- Diverse learning environments
- [e.g. Space project](http://www.piilometsa.fi/2017/03/avaruusmatka.html#more) <http://www.piilometsa.fi/2017/03/avaruusmatka.html#more>



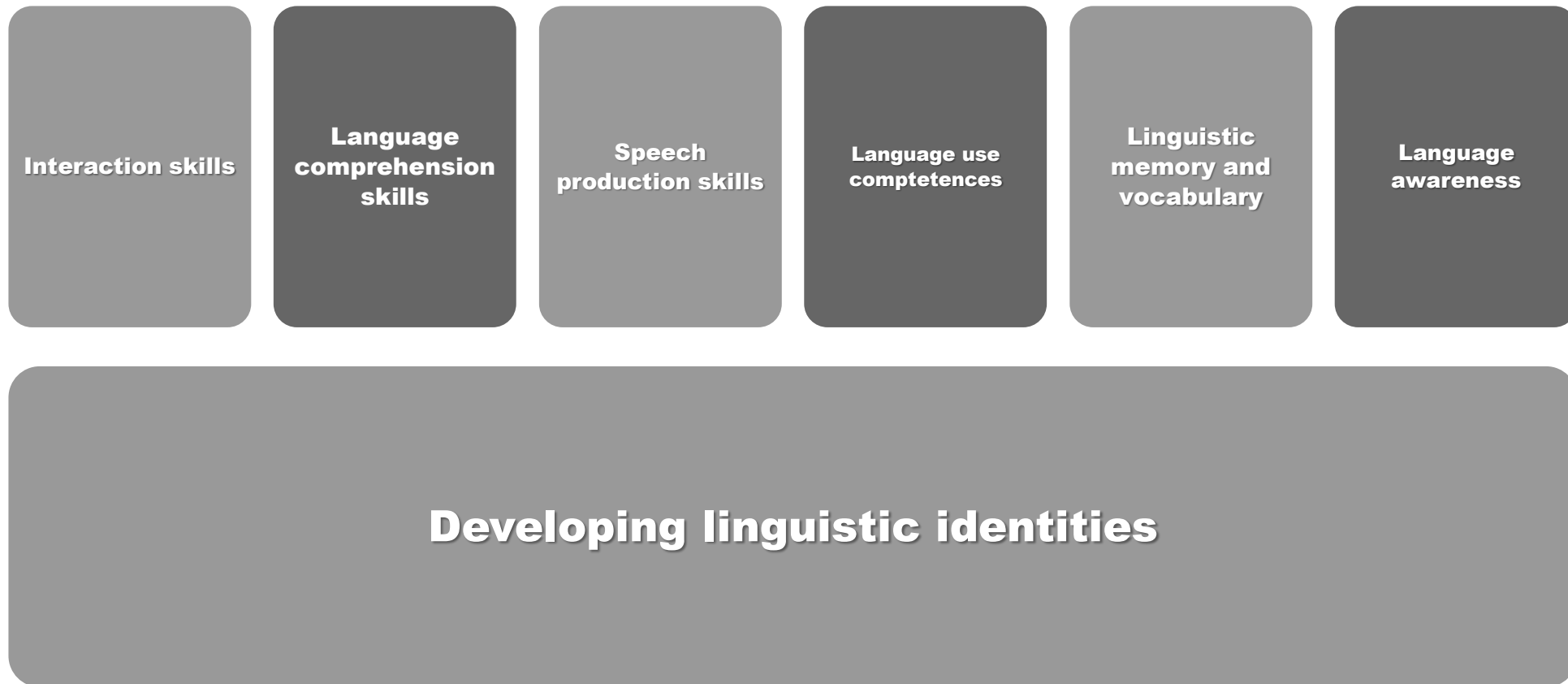
# Learning areas

- Rich world of languages
- Diverse forms of expression
- Me and my community
- Exploring and interacting with my environment
- I grow, move and develop





# Rich world of languages



**Figure: The main areas of Children's linguistic development in Finnish ECEC (2018)**

# Diverse forms of expression

- Musical
- Visual
- Verbal and
- Physical expression
- Different art forms
- Cultural heritage
- Holistic approach
- Creativity
- Play



# Me and my community

- Ethical thinking
- World view education
  - Diversity of people, respect and intercultural sensitivity
- Past, present and the future of the local community
- Media education





# Exploring and interacting with my environment

- Mathematical thinking
- Technology education
- Environmental education



# I grow, move and develop

- Physical activity
- Food education
- Health and safety education





# Early childhood teacher education in Rauma campus, University of Turku, Department of Teacher Education

- High level Finnish Early childhood teacher education in BA and MA degree levels
- Collaboration with Early Childhood Education Centre Pikkunorssi and other ECEC Centres
- Continuous learning in ECEC pedagogy
- Arts, Science and environmental pedagogy
- Next application time: January 2022, studies starts Autumn 2022
- <https://www.bachelorstudies.com/Bachelors-Degree-Programme-in-Early-Childhood-Teacher-Education/Finland/University-of-Turku/>
- More information: Faculty of Education, merman@utu.fi





# **ECEC Centre of Pikkunorssi as an innovation activity – comprehensive development work in early childhood teacher education**

- **Environmental pedagogical actor in arts and physical education**
- **promotes cultural and linguistic diversity, equity, and equality**
- **serves as a learning environment where child-centred pedagogical methods**



# University of Turku's ECEC Centre of Pikkunorssi at Rauma Campus



Pikkunorssi's Teaching  
rooms

<https://pikkunorssi.fi/rauman-pikkunorssista/tilat/>



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**Thank you for your attention!**  
**Welcome to Finland, University of Turku and Rauma campus!**



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# Literature

- **Recent National ECEC evaluations (Finland):**
- Guidelines and recommendations for evaluating the quality of early childhood education and care (2018). Finnish Education Evaluation Centre FINEEC.
- Every-day quality in early childhood education and care – ECEC curriculum implementation at day-care centres and in family day-care (2019). Finnish Education Evaluation Centre FINEEC.
- Pedagogical continuums and joy of expression! Pedagogy for five-year-olds and the current state of skills and art education in early childhood education and care (2021).
- **Some recent research articles concerning ECEC evaluation, Progressive observational studies:**
- Nikkola, T., Reunamo, J., & Ruokonen, I. (2020). Children's creative thinking abilities and social orientations in Finnish early childhood education and care. *Early Child Development and Care*, 1-15.
- Ruokonen, I., Tervaniemi, M. & Reunamo, J. (2021). The significance of music in early childhood education and care of toddlers in Finland: An extensive observational study. *Music Education Research*. DOI 10.1080/14613808.2021.1965564.