

## **TALLINN KINDERGARTEN SIPSİK** **(Tallinna Lasteaed Sipsik)**

### **Organisation description**

Tallinn Kindergarten Sipsik was opened in 2004 and is situated in the centre of Tallinn on P. Süda street. The kindergarten got its name by book called Sipsik which author is Eno Raud. The artist of the book has created a logo for kindergarten. Composer Maria Wunderlich has created a song for Sipsik kindergarten. The figure of Sipsik is well known amongst children and their parents.

There are 6 groups in the kindergarten: one of them is for children up to 3 years old and 5 other groups are for children over 3 years of age. Altogether there are 134 children in our kindergarten. Working language in kindergarten is Estonian. There are 15 teachers, including teacher of music and teacher of gymnastics. Kindergarten Sipsik helps to prepare children for school and in cooperation with parents it carries out development, up-bringing and education of children, taking into consideration specific features of each child, interests and principles of family education.

Kindergarten Sipsik's motto is: "Children's day will begin with joy and will end with satisfaction. "

Our name SIPSİK expresses different values: S - sõbralikkus (friendliness), I - innovaatus (innovation), P - pühendumine (commitment), S - soojus (warmness), I - inspiratsioon (inspiration), K - koostöö (co-operation).

Kindergarten Sipsik helps children to prepare for school and in co-operation with parents it assures diverse development of the children.

Children can participate in different activities in kindergarten: art course, ceramics, dancing, English and judo.

Traditions are implemented into kindergarten work, e.g. Mihkli and Christmas fairs, kindergarten's birthday, Estonian Independence Day etc. Besides celebrating traditional activities in kindergarten, very important are national and international health days, e.g. Heart Week, Bread and Milk Week etc. Since December 2005 kindergarten Sipsik belongs to network of kindergartens aiming to educate children on health. Principle activities: developing a healthy environment; developing a healthy way of living; developing and strengthening cooperation between children and personnel.

Tallinn Kindergarten Sipsik has won several awards, e.g. "Best Health Fostering Kindergarten in Tallinn 2008, 2009" and "Best Innovative Deed 2010" for creating opportunities for skiing in our kindergarten.

More information about kindergarten Sipsik is available at: <http://www.tallinn.ee/lasteaed-sipsik/>

### **Project context**

Kindergarten Sipsik is located in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia on the coast of Baltic Sea. Tallinn has population of 430 00 inhabitants. Native language is Estonian, but also English, Russian and Finnish are widely understood.

Tallinn was founded about 1000 years ago. Now it is a very beautiful modern city with ancient buildings & fantastic sightseings. City is very popular touristic place.

Kindergarten Sipsik is situated in the centre of town in an architectural building.

## **Proposed Activities**

There are a lot of different activities in kindergarten where the helping-hand of volunteer is needed. For example, the following events are planned:

- Celebrating Estonian holidays such as different Christmas events and Christmas Fair but also national holidays like Mardipäev, Kadripäev, Vastlapäev etc.
- Visits: visiting fire brigade, health museum, Castle School of Kadriorg etc.
- Trips to nature: Nature School of Sagadi, jogging tracks of Viimsi etc.
- The groups with oldest children will go skiing and swimming.

Foreign volunteer can participate in all activities and offer his/her ideas and be creative with children. Volunteers can make performances with children, sport activities and competitions etc., having of course previously discussed and coordinated it all with the teachers.

Volunteer will have experienced tutor, who will always be ready to help (if there will be some difficulties or problems) or just give good advice about everyday life in our city and country.

The tutor will make volunteer understand better about new environment, new people and make her/him feel more comfortable. Volunteers are expected to learn Estonian language and therefore and will have Estonian language lessons at the beginning of their voluntary service.

## **Profile of Volunteer and Recruitment Process**

Selection of volunteers will be done by our kindergarten in cooperation with our coordinating organisation MTÜ Noortevahetuse Arengu Ühing EstYES.

Working experience is not required but we will be pleased to get applications for participation from anyone who are:

- ready to work with children and have enough patience;
- friendly and open-minded;
- willing to be involved in youth work and youth activities;
- aged between 18 and 30 years;
- speaking English on a basic communication level;
- optimistic and cheerful.

All sorts of artistic skills are welcome as they can be used kindergarten's educational activities.

Coordinating organisation MTÜ EstYES will make the primary selection among volunteer candidates. All volunteer applications approved by EstYES will be forwarded to Tallinn Kindergarten Sipsik so that we could do the final selection. We are open to work with any competent sending organisation.

## **Support**

Accommodation will be arranged by coordinating organisation MTÜ EstYES. Volunteer will be placed in flat that correspond to normal Estonian living standards. Volunteer will have either single or double room and common rooms: equipped kitchen, WC, shower/bathroom and living room. Normally in Tallinn volunteers share a flat with other international volunteers and use local city transport to go to work. Volunteer will be provided with monthly pocket and food money and they will buy and prepare their own meals. In kindergarten they will also have the opportunity to eat twice a day on working days.

## **Risk Prevention, Protection and Safety**

Our working environment is very friendly and supporting and the volunteer will have support from his/her tutor, mentor and coordinating organisation.

Tallinn Kindergarten Sipsik will ensure:

- that the volunteer work is safe and it has been assessed for risk
- that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards
- that the volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment when needed
- provide a mentor for volunteer, to whom she can turn in case of problems, doubts, concerns, etc.
- ensure regular meetings with project supervisor to discuss the course of EVS project and see where the shortcomings are and how potential problems can be resolved.
- that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the organisations' staff or from professionals
- that in case of crises it will be dealt at once with full seriousness on high professional level with the use of all previous experiences collected during decade of dealing with EVS projects.

Tallinn Kindergarten Sipsik and the coordinating organisation MTÜ EstYES will support the volunteers in any conflict situation and look for the best possible solution.

MTÜ EstYES offers also extra training seminars and gatherings where volunteers can take part and share their impressions and experiences with other volunteers and local community.