



## About Tallinn's Tihase Kindergarten



### Organisation description

Tihase kindergarten was first opened in spring 1961.

*Our motto:* Many-sided people through play.

*Our mission:* To support family in child up-bringing, teaching and in acquiring pre-primary education; creating assumptions and conditions so that child can develop into many-sided and healthy person in child-friendly environment.

*Our vision:* To be institution with well developed learning and up-bringing environment where the safety and satisfaction of children, parents and personell is guaranteed.

*Children groups/ages:* 4 groups / 2 -7 years old

- Number of children in one group is maximum 24 (2016-2017 number of children 20).
- Each group has 2 teachers and 1 teacher assistant.
- Separately we have 1 teacher-expert who teaches music and 1 teacher for physical education.
- There are all together 18 people working in our kindergarten and 9 of us have the BS degree of education. They teach and take care of children aged 2 -7. All of our teachers have pedagogical education.

The main purpose of our organisation is highquality basic education for children.

It is important for us to know that every child would feel welcome, safe and positive among us throughout the day and would be happy taking part in everyday learning activities. Our priority is learning outdoor. In addition to the daily learning activities taking place in kindergarten, we also have music and sports. Children can participate in different activities in kindergarten like small channel course, dancing, English and music course.

Traditions are implemented into kindergarten work, e.g. 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.

We hold important to communicate and cooperate with the child's family, thus leading teachers annually through the development of conversations with parents to provide feedback on the child's development. The teachers are open-minded and want to extend their knowledge by getting to know people of different cultures and nations. Also, for our organisation the culture and customs of our own nation is of great importance.

We also cooperate with other organisations, such as nearby kindergartens, different theatre groups, our district government, etc.

Since June 2016 Tihase kindergarten 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.

More information about Tihase kindergarten is available at:

<http://www.tallinn.ee/est/tihase-lasteaed/>

### **Project context**

Tallinn's Tihase Kindergarten 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.

Tihase Kindergarten is in Kristiine District, not far from the city centre. There are 4 groups of children, aged 2-7 in our kindergarten. All in all there are 86 kids and they all live nearby. This district is valued for nearby parks and the Old Town, with bus only 2- 3 stops away. Our kindergarten has good transport connection with the city centre.

### **Proposed Activities**

The idea to host a European volunteer in our kindergarten is to make small children conscious about life in other sides of the world (different and similar aspects). It refers to different tradition, customs, religion, history, art, music, language etc. all topics will be present in a simple way and through so that children could understand it easily. Topics will be connected with children's everyday life. The task of the volunteers is to help the kindergarten personnel in their daily work with children. She/he can work in one age group or share the work between different groups depending on the volunteer's interest or ability. She/he will never work alone but under the supervision and guidance of our kindergarten's teachers.

Main tasks are following:

- participate and help teachers in lessons or in games (playtime) with children,
- prepare (or help to prepare) lessons and materials for activities,
- help our music teacher in music lessons: she/he can bring songs, games and sometimes teach simple songs in her/his language,
- help to prepare festivals or holidays and exhibitions: teach songs, dances and drama. The exhibitions about her/his country,
- could be organizing for teachers different events, such as culture clubs.

The volunteer is very expected to take part different attempions, such as fild-day, different partys, excursions, study trips etc.

The volunteer's are also expected to take part in other practical activities: assisting dressing kids for going out to play in the yard, gathering up toys or books after plays or lessons, helping kids before and after mid-day nap and during their meals.

In free hours the volunteers can use the Internet in the kindergarten. Also the volunteers can have lunch in kindergarten.

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. or visiting fire brigade, health museum, trips to nature etc



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 environment, new people and make her/him feel more comfortable. Volunteers are expected to learn Estonian language and therefore 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 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`s Tihase Kindergarten 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 on working days.

Tihase kindergarten also tries to encourage, advice and support the volunteer in daily matters – how to have a way with our culture, how to get to know Estonians, how and why might our daily life be different from their home country. We would also like to introduce the basics of Estonian language to the volunteer.

### **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`s Tihase Kindergarten 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 psyc l support from the organisations`s 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`s Tihase Kindergarten and the coordinating organisatsioon 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.