

**Table 1.25: Nursery school provision in 7 European countries**

	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Germany</b>
<b>Scheme</b>	Børnehaveklasse	Deltidsgruppe/ Förskoleklass (6 years olds)	Peruskoulu	Basisschool	Nursery school Nursery class Reception class	Ecole Maternelle	No arrangement
<b>Scope of application</b>	5-7 years old	4-6 years old	6 year olds	4-6 years old	2-4 years (nursery school and classes) 4-5 years (reception classes)	2-5 years	--
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	None	Mainly for one parent families neither gainfully employed nor studying and for children in family day care.	None	None	Nursery school and classes: child's education and psychological needs, catchment area, and siblings attending same school or class Reception classes: vary	Available classes for all 3 year olds Increased number of classes for 2 year olds	--
<b>Responsibility</b>	Municipality	Municipality	Municipality	Local authorities	Local Education Authority (LEA)	State, Department and local authorities	--
<b>Provision</b>	Municipal	Municipal and private providers (12%)	Municipality: separate reception classes or combined with primary school	Public (32%), private (68%)	Nursery school and class: LEA (45%) Independent (55%) Reception: LEA (89%), Independent (11%)	3-5 years (98%) 2 years (33%)	--
<b>Opening hours</b>	20 weekly hours, 5 hours per day, during school- term	30 weekly hours, 6 per day	25 weekly hours, 5 hours per day during school tem	8:30-12 AM and 1:15-3:15 PM, except Wednesdays: 8:30-12 AM during term time	Nursery school: 5 days/week from 9 AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3 PM during term time. Reception: 5 days/week 9AM- 15:30 during term time	8:30 AM-4:30 PM on weekdays except for Wednesday mornings	--
<b>Average attendance hours</b>	5 hours per day	3 hours per day	19-21 weekly hours or 12-21 hours	Minimum 4.4 and maximum 5.5 per day	Nursery school: 30% attend full-time Nursery class: 10% full-timers		--

**Table 1.25 (continued)**

	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Germany</b>
<b>Staff qualifications</b>	Kindergarten teacher	Mainly preschool teacher and child care assistants	Kindergarten teacher or primary school teacher	Primary teacher: 4 year post-18 education	Qualified teacher and qualified nursery assistant	Teacher (5 years + education) and assistant with some training	
<b>Financing</b>	Public	Deltidsgrupper: public and parents Förskoleklass: public	Public	Public	Central and local government	Central and local government	
<b>Fees</b>	No fees	According to income and attendance, but mainly waived for children aged 6	According to income, family size and attendance.	No fees, but NLG 1-3/day for day care during lunch	LEA provision: Only for meals. Independent reception classes: £400-800 a term.	No fees	
<b>Regulation</b>	Municipal board	National Agency for Education	Local authorities	Education inspectorate	OFSTED under the Department of Education and Employment . Registered Nursery Inspectors inspect private and voluntary providers.	Ministry of Education	

Source: Tina Rostgaard & T. Fridberg (1998). *Caring for Children and Older People: A Comparison of European Policies and Practices*, Social Security in Europe 6. Copenhagen: Danish National Institute of Social Research 98:20.