

# HVAL GÅRD NATURBARNEHAGE, NORWAY

Case Study



## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE KINDERGARTEN

Hval Gård and Vepsebolet barnehager is community owned kindergartens run as one unit. Inside this Unit we find Hval Gård Naturbarnehage.

36 Children, aged 4-6 years are filling the groups. They have a base in purpose built buildings without electrical heating. They are all close to the forests and the sea. The Children and Staff are outside all year and all day. We are situated in some of the most picturesque areas of the Asker community, with short walks to public transport. We also have our own mini

buses and boats to access sites further afield.

In our Kindergartens the Children learn that it is better to be outside than inside. In the last year before School, all the Children in Hval Gård barnehage attend the Naturegroups.

We follow the Asker Communities basic values; Openness, Credibility and Mutual Respect.



## 100% OF THE CHILD'S NURSERY TIME IS OUTDOORS

A DAILY LIFE OUTSIDE, AWAY FROM HOME, CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD, IN AND WITH NATURE, ALL DAY – EVERY DAY!

In our Kindergartens we like to accentuate that the childhood period has its own value, and shall not be seen as only a training arena for adulthood. Children are individuals, with their own dreams, thoughts and values here and now, which shall be respected and valued at all times. We wish them to experience a culture of "Yes", where they are being met by the "Grown Ups" with the attitude that everything you suggest is seen as a new possibility and are welcomed.

### Our pedagogy

We follow the methodology of Mindstretchers "Talking and Thinking Floorbooks", which is a method of documentation developed by Claire Warden, based on the children's own participation and direction in the process of learning. It is of vital importance that the staff conduct their practice at the children's level and follow the child's interests and questions by inspiring them to try to find their own solutions, and by not giving the "correct" answer immediately. We do the documentation in big Floorbooks where the children and the staff contribute together.

### Our Staff

We have both male and female staff that are either trained pedagogues or educated as child carers. They are all aware that you are able to perform the same activities outside and inside, plus a range of experiences you can only do outside.

All of them are committed to practice our basic attitudes in the right order:

### The first matter is:

The consideration to the child is always the most important thing!

### The second matter is:

The consideration of the work place!

### The third matter is:

All other considerations are set thereafter!



PLEASE, CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT

[www.hvalgard.no](http://www.hvalgard.no)

SEE FOOTAGE FROM HVAL GÅRD AT <https://youtu.be/nhyJMrYm1es>

## NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



**Anders Farstad**, Manager from Hval Gård Naturbarnehage, in discussing the inspiring use of nature in his setting and the pedagogy:

*"We are so fortunate to live in a Country like Norway, with long and strong traditions in using the wild Nature during the whole year, through all seasons and always to make the best of different weather and temperature conditions. We are harvesting whatever we can from the forests, the sea and what*

*we can grow ourselves, using it for food and decorations, firewood and instruments, in whatever way it is possible. The Children learn how to handle different tools, and how to dress to keep warm during every possible weather condition. They are presented with new and exciting challenges regularly and love to push their personal boundaries. In May they all go off for a two day and overnight stay without their parents. They are become very confident and independent boys and girls.*

*It is with pride we can say that our Children like it more to be outside than inside!"*

### Our vision and core values:

Learning for life – diversity of possibilities with outdoor life, local history and traditions.

