

LASTENKOTI NAPENDA (English)



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Hello, Parent/Guardian!

Your child has now moved to live at the Napenda children's home for the time being. At Napenda, your child will be cared for by all the instructors working at the children's home, as well as the home's director, Petteri Vähäpesola.

Napenda's contact information:

Address: Knuutintie 12, 00370 Helsinki

Phone number for the instructors, available 24/7: +358 50 448 1900

Email address: napenda@napenda.fi

Instagram: Lastenkotinapenda



Foreword

The purpose of this information package is to provide you with as comprehensive information as possible about the Napenda children's home after your child has moved here.

Placing a child in a new environment outside the home is always a significant crisis for both the child and their close ones. We hope that the cooperation between the adults at Napenda and the child's close network will be as open, honest, and effective as possible from the very beginning. We, the adults at Napenda, wish nothing but the best for you and your child and will do everything we can to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible from the start.

The well-being and adjustment of the child to living at Napenda are greatly supported when the child's family and close network help the child settle into Napenda from the outset. We hope that our collaboration with you will be as open and mutually respectful as possible.

When Your Child Moves to Napenda Children's Home

Upon moving to Napenda, your child will be given their own room, which they can decorate with the help of their designated instructor. Each child is expected to clean their room weekly, with assistance from an adult if necessary.



The instructors at Napenda prepare daily meals, in which all the children at Napenda participate. We provide your child with breakfast, lunch (unless they eat at school), an afternoon snack, dinner, and an evening snack. Children at Napenda have the opportunity to choose and prepare a special meal with their instructor on designated special meal days: "favorite food day".

If you have questions about the meals provided or if your child has special dietary needs, please discuss this with Napenda's instructors.

At Napenda, all children follow common rules and schedules. Additionally, each child has their own personal curfew and bedtime, and if necessary, a personalized daily schedule is created for them.

Some examples of the common rules and schedules at Napenda include designated mealtimes, TV watching times, PlayStation gaming times, and quiet hours. At Napenda, television is not watched on weekday mornings before school and is turned off at 20:00 on weekdays. On weekends and during holidays, TV watching times are agreed upon with the on-duty instructors. Quiet hours at Napenda are from 22:00 to 8:00, and visitors must leave Napenda by 20:00 when evening routines begin. Exceptions to these schedules must be arranged with the on-duty instructors.

While at Napenda, your child can continue any current hobbies or work with their designated instructor to find a new hobby. We encourage and support your child in discovering interests or enjoyable activities.



Your child has the right to maintain contact with important people in their life. Meetings and communication between you and your child will be arranged with the social worker. Friends may also visit Napenda by prior arrangement. The staff at Napenda encourage your child to stay connected with family members, other close individuals and friends.

It is important to us that Napenda is a safe and good place for your child to live. Please remember to be honest with the instructors at Napenda if something is on your mind. Don't hesitate to ask us any questions you may have about Napenda, our practices, or anything related to your child. You can reach the instructors at Napenda 24/7 using the phone number provided at the beginning of this information package.

Your child will also receive a weekly allowance, the amount of which depends on your child's age. The weekly allowance for your child is _____ euros. The money can be given to your child either in cash on a weekly basis or deposited monthly into your child's bank account, if they have one.

If your child intentionally damages or steals Napenda's or someone else's property, they will be liable for compensation. In such cases, the issue will be discussed with you, your child, and the social worker, and a compensation amount and plan will be agreed upon.





Designated Instructors

When your child moves to Napenda, they will be assigned two designated instructors. These instructors will become thoroughly familiar with your child's needs and work to establish a meaningful and open trusting relationship with them.

The designated instructors maintain communication and participate in meetings concerning your child with you, and they coordinate with various networks to advocate for your child's best interests.

The designated instructors are responsible for writing monthly assessments for your child and providing opportunities to review these assessments. The monthly assessment will also be sent to you by mail or email. You can discuss



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its contents with your child's designated instructors or other Napenda staff. Additionally, the designated instructors will organize regular meetings to discuss and update your child's care and development plan, including personal goals.

The designated instructors will also assist with your child's clothing needs. While your child is at Napenda, we will cover the cost of clothing and other necessities as agreed upon with the designated instructors. If you notice any specific needs, such as clothing requirements, please inform the Napenda staff!

The designated instructors provide your child with regular one-on-one time for discussions and occasionally spend quality time doing activities your child enjoys, such as swimming, outings, walks, shopping, sports, or watching movies. If needed, the designated instructor can help your child create a daily schedule, which may include designated times for curfew, bedtime, and gaming.

Your child's designated instructors:



Family Support work at Napenda Children's Home

Once your child has moved to Napenda, we offer you and your child the opportunity to participate in family support work. At Napenda, family support is primarily provided by designated Napenda family support workers and your child's designated instructors.

Your main family support workers at Napenda will be

_____ and _____.

The purpose of family support work is to build a functional collaboration and an open, trusting relationship.

At Napenda, family support work is provided using a systemic approach, emphasizing transparency, honesty, and family-centered practices. The goal is to foster positive change, with the work always being carried out from the perspectives, needs, and wishes of the child and your family.

Through family support work, we aim to offer new perspectives on your family's and each individual member's situation. The goal is to ensure that every family member feels heard and understood, even if there are disagreements.



Through open and direct communication in family support work, the aim is to identify the best possible approaches for your family and to maintain ongoing contact between your child, yourself, and your family.

The purpose of family support work is to strengthen the involvement of each family member and, if necessary, help you enhance your ability to meet your child's needs. Ideally, family support work can help create lasting, far-reaching, and positive changes within your family. In some cases, it can also facilitate family reunification.

Family support work can be conducted in person at Napenda, at your home, by phone, via Teams, or at another previously agreed-upon location. If needed, a phone interpreter will be included.



Your Child's Social Worker:

Each child is assigned a social worker who collaborates with you regarding your child's case. The social worker is responsible for decisions related to the child's placement and care.

At Napenda, we work in accordance with the decisions made by the social worker and your child's personal goals. Napenda is responsible for managing your child's daily activities and school matters comprehensively and maintaining communication with various networks.

The social worker determines the contact and meetings between you and your child. If you have any questions regarding your child's residence, placement, or guardianship, please contact the social worker directly.

Both you and your child have the right to meet and communicate with the social worker responsible for your child's case. You can reach the social worker by phone or email and arrange meetings. The designated instructor can also communicate with the social worker on your and your child's behalf.

You can discuss with the social worker, for example, the reasons why your child has been placed in the children's home. You can also talk about feelings and thoughts related to the placement with Napenda's instructors and your child's designated instructors.



Instructors at Napenda write daily reports on your child's activities, events, and communications. Based on these daily reports, the designated instructors prepare a monthly review of your child, which is sent to the social worker responsible for your child's case, you, and any legal guardian or representative, so that everyone is informed about how the month has gone for your child.

The social worker meets with your child regularly to discuss their well-being and other important matters. Additionally, the social worker arranges case planning meetings at least annually, or more frequently if needed, which typically includes the social worker responsible for the child, the child, the child's guardian, the designated instructor, and any other relevant network members. In these meetings, they review the child's and family's updates, discuss the child's school performance, challenges, and strengths, and make decisions about future meetings, home visits, and communication.

The social worker responsible for your child's case makes all official decisions regarding the child, while also considering the views of Napenda's instructors and the child's support network.



Your child's social worker's contact information is:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Other Important Information

Sometimes, your child or another child at Napenda might experience distress that is difficult for them to manage. In such threatening situations, the staff at Napenda are there to ensure the safety of all the children. Occasionally, situations may require physical restraint to ensure safety. These situations might involve loud noises, such as shouting, or the child may throw objects. Rest assured, everyone is safe, and the adults will handle the situation securely.

While your child is at Napenda, we may implement restriction measures in accordance with child protection laws (Child Welfare Act 417/2007) if necessary. These measures are always a last resort intervention.

When milder measures are insufficient to assist the child, Napenda's staff is obligated to resort to restriction measures in accordance with child protection laws (Child Welfare Act 417/2007).



In situations where the use of restrictions is necessary, their purpose is always to protect the child's or others' health, physical integrity, or to prevent significant property damage.

When applying restriction measures, Napenda's staff must always ensure the child's rights are upheld. The use of restrictions is based on clearly defined and strictly limited criteria.

Restrictions may be applied in situations where:

- The restriction is in the best interest of the child
- The restriction is proportionate to the child's age and developmental level
- The restriction is justified and appropriate for the purpose of the child's care and custody or foster care.
- The use of the restriction is necessary to prevent serious harm to the child's own health or the health of others, to ensure physical integrity, or to prevent significant property damage.
- The restriction is proportionate to the interest being protected.
- The child's opinion on the restriction has been considered in accordance with § 20 (Child Welfare Act 417/2007), unless it is evidently impossible.
- Other, less restrictive measures are not suitable for the situation.



- Child protection law measures include physical restraint, restriction of movement freedom, limitation of contact, seizure of substances and objects, inspection of property and correspondence, refusal to deliver correspondence, personal searches and inspections, isolation, and special care.

If the staff need to resort to using restriction measures with your child, they will contact you as soon as the situation allows. Additionally, the incidents will be reported to and discussed with the social worker responsible for your child's case.

All restriction measures will be properly documented, including decisions that may be subject to appeal. The documentation will include a detailed description of the restriction measure, the reasons for its use, how it was implemented, the duration and basis of the measure, who carried it out, those involved in the situation, and how the child was heard along with their opinion.

A discussion about the restriction decision will also be held with your child as soon as they are calm and able to participate in the conversation. The discussion will cover the situation leading to the restriction, the necessity and rationale for the restriction, alternative approaches to handling such situations, and any rights to appeal the decision based on the nature of the restriction.

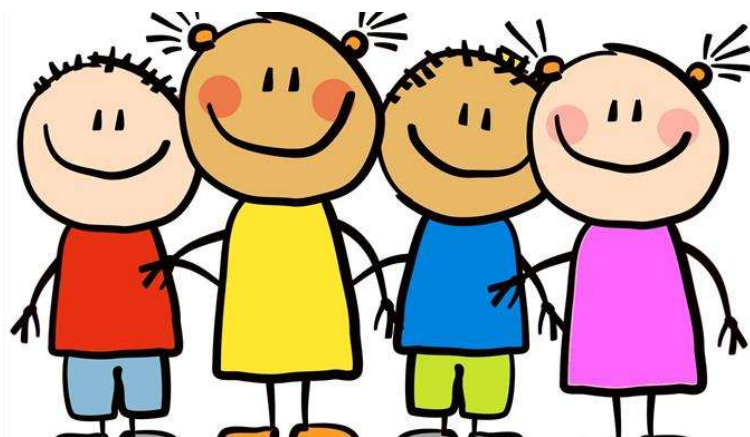


Sometimes, the restrictions implemented can feel difficult for us adults as well, and this is completely understandable. We at Napenda hope that you can openly and honestly discuss any concerns you have with us, even in challenging situations.

We work daily to ensure that your child feels as comfortable and safe as possible while living at Napenda. We also hope to build an open and trusting relationship with you and to work as parenting partners while your child is with us.

When your child sees that you trust us at Napenda and allow them to settle and connect with Napenda, it also gives your child permission to learn to trust and potentially rely on us.

Thank you for collaborating with us!



The adults at Napenda

