

Important information for guardians of children in preschools and schools

What has happened?

The police have conducted a preliminary investigation against a person who previously worked in municipal preschools. In the preliminary investigation, there is evidence that the person committed sexual abuse against several children. It can be determined that abuse occurred at the preschools and that there are nine confirmed plaintiffs. As the perpetrator is deceased, the preliminary investigation has been closed and no charges will be brought. In order to handle the situation in the best way, the municipality has gone into staff mode and appointed a special support group for all those affected.

Our most important mission right now is to offer help and support for children, guardians and staff.

We understand that many of our residents have many questions, concerns and thoughts right now. You can get in touch with us in several different ways - we have a physical location where you can come in for help and support, we have a specific phone number you can call, we update our website once a day with the latest information and we will have a press conference every day this week.

At the same time, we have started the work of carrying out an external review of how this could happen and what we can do to prevent it from happening again.

We will do what we can to be there for you in the best possible way in this difficult situation. A support team is available for those who want someone to talk to. You can get support today, later, tomorrow or at a later time. Below are contact details for all support efforts.

It is also important that you, as a guardian, know how to best support your children and talk to your children about what happened. In short, the advice is about being calm, not interrogating or pressuring your children, and letting them talk at their own pace. This material contains more information on how to talk to your child.

Support for children:

Signs that a child may have been sexually abused include changes in sexual behavior, fear or anxiety, nightmares, and sometimes developmental regression. Physical signs, such as bruising, can sometimes appear close to the time of the abuse.

It is important that guardians are responsive and open to talking about the child's everyday life, but without asking pressing or interrogation-like questions. If suspicion exists, professional help from, for example, family support may be necessary.

If the child begins to tell about an abuse, the guardian should listen attentively without questioning or stressing the child. It is also important that the guardian does not show strong emotions, such as anger or sadness, in order not to make the child anxious.

The consequences of abuse vary depending on the relationship with the abuser, the duration of the abuse and how the environment reacts. The child's interpretation of the situation is strongly influenced by the caregiver's reactions, and stability in the family is important for healing.

Caregivers and guardians can help by being open to talking about the abuse when the child is ready. Routines and a safe everyday life are also important for the child's recovery. If the child shows signs

of anxiety, developmental changes, or sexualized behavior, the guardian should seek professional help.

