



— Hjalli Model 2023



What is Hjallimodel?

Educational company, the largest of its kind in Iceland

Hjalli model is more than just a company

It is an Icelandic ideology and philosophy





Key facts...

- 15 kindergartens (playschools)
- 3 primary schools
- 1 kindergarten in Glasgow, Scotland
- Service contracts in 11 municipals in Iceland
- 2000 children
- 600 employees



"Children at Hjalli model schools receive training in all human qualities as we believe that all children should have all the possibilities in the world regardless of their gender."

— Margrét Pála Ólafsdóttir



The Hjalli model is meant to meet every child as it is and respect and accept the diverse needs of age groups, genders and individuals. The school should also respect the children's **freedom** of choice and different interests and nurture everyone's success in a broad sense.





How did it start?

Hjalli Model ideology started with its founder Margrét Pála 30 years ago in 1989

Magga Pála was running a kindergarten in Hafnafjörður called Hjalli and wanted to transform the school system with new approaches and original ideas.

In 1999 she founded Hjallastefnan to run the Hjalli model ideology independently.

What started as one kindergarten is now an independent organization.

Hjalli Model is running 18 schools in Iceland and one in Scotland.





HEALTHY AND POWERFUL GENDER SELF IMAGE

“Children at Hjalli model schools receive training in all human qualities as we believe that all children should have all the possibilities in the world regardless of their gender.”

— Margrét Pála Ólafsdóttir





The first basic principle

Children and parents

The Hjalli Model approach is designed to accept each child as it is and respect and acknowledge different needs of every age group, gender, and individual. The school is also required to recognize individual freedom of choice and different sets of interests for each child and, in the broadest sense, foster success for everyone.



The second basic principle

Staff

The Hjalli Model approach is intended to promote positivity, joy, and geniality when communicating with the children, their parents, and anyone else that is involved with the schools.

The third basic principle

The environment



The Hjalli Model approach is intended to create a community within each school where balance, simplicity, and transparency characterize the program, the environment, and materials, and rules are visible and tangible. Thus, providing the children with an understandable and manageable environment according to their age, development, and ability.

The fourth basic principle

Materials



The Hjalli Model approach is intended to provide open-ended play materials and simple learning materials where creativity and imagination are paramount for each child's diverse experience. Thereby, self-reliant individuals create their learning and play world with their own solutions, where reality-based projects are given the greatest weight.

The fifth basic principle

Nature



The Hjalli Model approach is intended to teach children to sense and enjoy the natural environment and respect nature by being frugal, content, and showing moderation, as well as practising maintenance and recycling.

The sixth basic principle

Community



The Hjalli Model approach is intended to practise a code of conduct and behaviour positively and warmly but at the same time be assertive and honest. With stability and precision comes security and freedom, providing peace for all in the school community, which later will result in responsible participation in a democratic society.



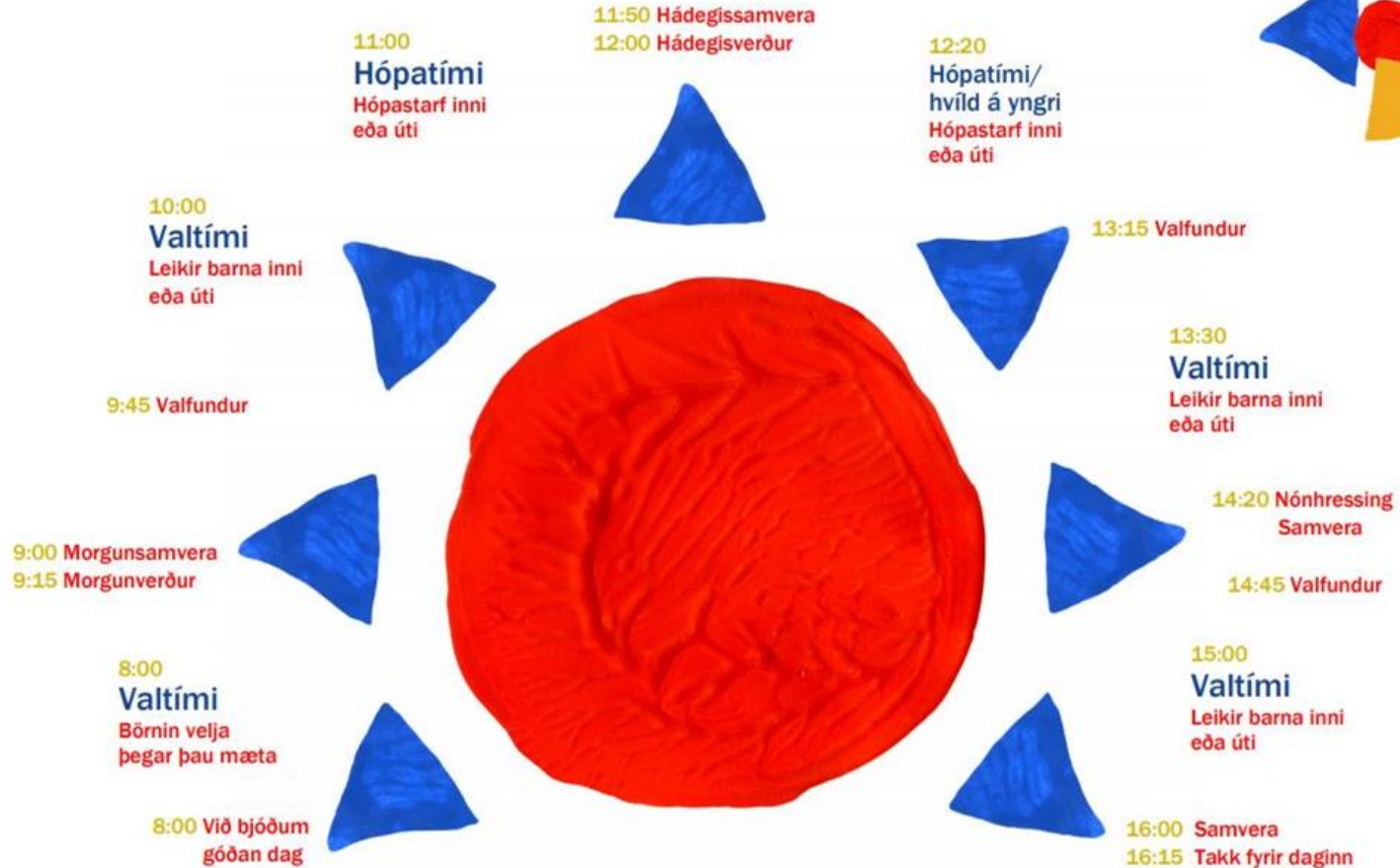
Each Hjalli Model Playschool is divided into departments (cores) that are very independent and self-sufficient in most ways.

Within the departments children have their own groups and a group leader (teacher) that stays the same throughout the year.



Daily Routine

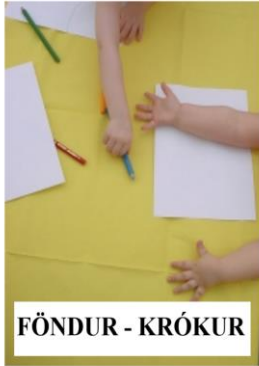
- 7:45-9:00 Welcome - **Reception**
- 9:00-10:30 **Choice and playtime**
- 10:30-12:00 **Group Time**
- 12:00-13:00 **Lunch and Rest**
- 13:00-14:30 **Group Time**
- 14:30-15:30 **Choice and Playtime**
- 15:30-16:00 **Afternoon Refreshment**
- 16:00-17:00 **Closing Time**





Choice-Meeting and Playtime

- Choice-Meeting and Playtime take up half of the schedule at every Hjalli Model Playschool.
- The choice-meeting and playtime is our way to secure the child's independence. The choice system serves as a frame, removing adult power.
- In the choice-meeting children learn;
 - First**, to practice their ability to know what they want and choose between two or more options.
 - Second**, to gain experience in making their wishes known democratically in a just and transparent system.
 - Third** and lastly, the choice system is intended to train the children in a controlled amount of adversity and prepare them to be able to handle it with serenity.



FÖNDUR - KRÓKUR



KUBBA - KRÓKUR



KUBBASTOFA



LEIKSTOFA



LEIR - KRÓKUR



SULL - KRÓKUR



ÚTISVÆÐI



Play material during playtime

We choose

Open-ended material as an addition

Real objects

Material with the quality to change into something else

Multi-purpose objects that can be used in various ways

Strong and durable objects

Natural objects

Natural and mild colours

Soft and noiseless objects

Exact number of objects to teach communication

Everything that increases endurance

Everything that shows many gender possibilities

Everything that shows positive diversity

We avoid

Regular toys such as those that can be found in private homes

Imitation of adult objects

Illustrated images

Play material with only one solution

Everything that is fragile

Material and objects made out of artificial materials

Objects in strong colour

Noisy and clanging objects

Few objects to avoid competition

Objects that are only interesting for a short period

Objects that represent traditional gender roles

Objects that portray "others" negatively

Hjali Model's Choice Table

	Sensory and mobility play	Creative and construction play	Imagination and role play	Rule and group games
Outdoors	×	×	×	×
Playroom	×		×	×
Arts and Crafts		×		
Building		×	×	
Sculpting	×	×		
Water and Sand	×	×		





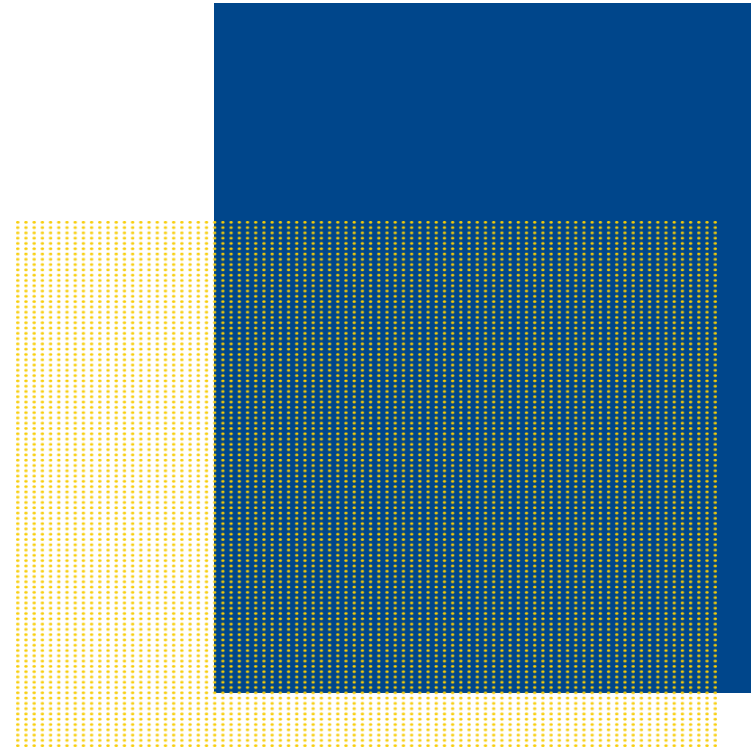
Group Time





Group Time

Dividing the children into small groups is the Schools solution to ensure that each child belongs to its group, where one adult is responsible for its well-being and success during the school year.





Hjalli Model

- Simplicity
- School clothes, uniforms for children and staff
- Real life projects
- Nature
- Open ended materials
- No traditional toys
- Choice time
- Group time
- Use of books and material
- Gender division
- Gender co-operation
- Working with parents and children and we accept every child and parent with their needs – every child is special

**What
makes
us
different**



Group Time



Social Qualities

Course 1: **Respect**

Key concepts are order, behaviour, manners and presentation.

Course 3: **Communication**

Key concepts are acceptance, open-mindedness, helpfulness and solidarity.

Course 5: **Friendship**

Key concepts are companionship, compassion, warmth and kindness.

Individual Qualities

Course 2: **Independence**

Key concepts are empowerment, confidence, self-reliance and expression.

Course 4: **Positivity**

Key concepts are assertiveness, candour, optimism and joy.

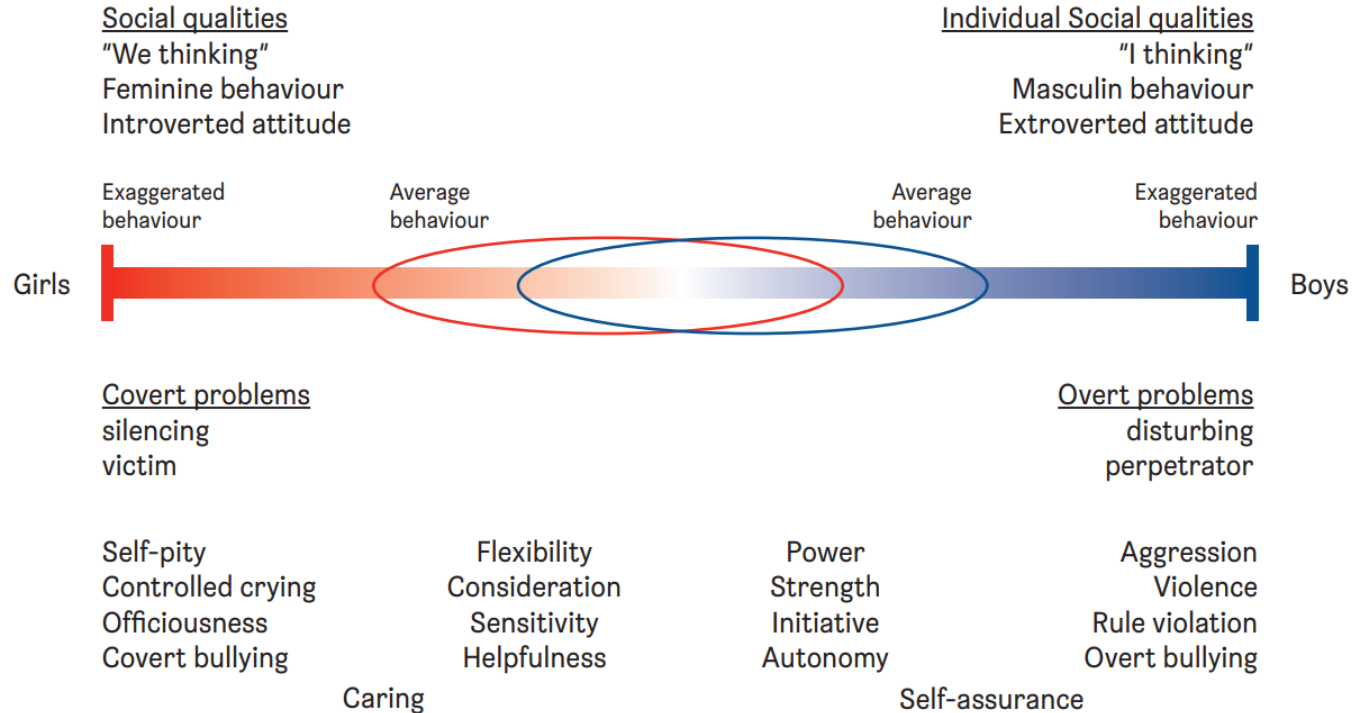
Course 6: **Courage**

Key concepts are bravery, strength, action and initiative.





The Gendered Scale



THANK YOU

