About the Mother Tongue School

The Mother Tongue School (Modersmålsskolen) is a city-wide offer for all multilingual children in the municipality with a mother tongue other than Danish, and even though the school's office is physically located at Tove Ditlevsens School at Enghave Plads 21, our approximately 60 employees teach at approximately 45 schools and locations throughout the municipality.

We would like to offer classes in all languages, and we are happy to open a new language class, if there are at least 12 students in the municipality waiting to be enrolled. All classes in EU and EØS languages are always free of charge. However, in Copenhagen municipality, non-EU languages are only free of charge through grades 0-5, while there is a fee of app. 2.000kr. per school year as from grade 6 through grade 9.

Purpose of mother tongue education

The mother tongue is the language learned at home from birth. It has great identity and emotional significance, and it is the linguistic foundation. From this, linguistic experiences are transferred to other languages that are learned later in life.

Mother tongue teaching aims at students developing language skills that enable them to cope in different communication situations in their mother tongue with different purposes and in different contexts, as well as it enables the child to participate equally and responsibly in democratic communities in schools and in society. Likewise, it aims at strengthening the individual student's self-esteem and confidence.

Definition of "mother tongue"

In Copenhagen municipality, we define mother tongue as the language the child speaks with at least one of the parents – and the mother tongue language has to **be actively spoken and used at home**. It is not the nationality of the parents that matters, but the actual language which is used as a mother tongue language at home.

Language vision (language didactics and pedagogy at The Mother Tongue School)

At Modersmålsskolen we value a **communicative view of language** and emphasize **interactionist forms of work**. We expect teachers to consciously work to ensure that teaching is as communicative as possible with linguistically active students along the way.

Finally, we also emphasize the concept of "***translanguaging",*** where students learn that it is both healthy and natural to draw on all of one's overall linguistic competence when learning languages. Therefore, it is quite natural for the teacher to provide space for the children to compare languages (words and concepts) from different languages in the classroom.

Our classes

Most of our classes take place shortly after the child finished the official school hours. We try, as far as possible, to place the mother tongue class at the child's own school or in the local area, which however strongly depends on the number of enrollments and home addresses of the other attendees. All classes, except a few, run for 2,5 hours including break time. Our teachers are fully aware of the fact that most children are tired after a long school day and that the mother tongue classes therefore have to be motivational and adapted to the reality of the child.

We have classes in 36 different languages – in most classes the teachers have to differentiate a lot, since the age span can range widely. We try however to divide the classes into age groups, if this is possible due to the number of children.

Objectives

We follow the national, governmental guidelines regarding mother tongue education. Please visit: https://emu.dk/grundskole/modersmaalsundervisning/faghaefte-faelles-maal-laeseplan-og-vejledning

Enrollment procedures

If you wish to enroll your child, please contact our secretary at mms@kk.dk.
If you are a citizen of _another_ municipality than Copenhagen, the municipality of your child's residence has to accept paying the full fee before enrollment (app. 7.257 DKK).

Modersmålsskolen
Enghave Plads 21
1670 København V.
Tlf. 2777 0333
Mail: mms@kk.dk
Website: https://mms.aula.dk

Manager: Peter Jensen
Secretary: Anouk Alexandra Kennemo