

Itla Children's Foundation Child Protection Policy

Introduction

The mission of the Itla Children's Foundation (Itla), as defined in the foundation's rules, is to promote and support the wellbeing, equality and position of children and families living in Finland and contribute to building a good future for them. Itla can also promote and support parenting and children's growth and education.

The Itla Children's Foundation was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Central Union for Child Welfare in 1987. In 2017, the Finnish Parliament decided to donate EUR 50 million in capital to Itla and to appoint a delegation for Itla consisting of Members of Parliament. The Act on the Appointment of the Itla Children's Foundation's Delegation and the Foundation's Capitalisation (1004/2017) was issued on 5 December 2017.

Our vision is a child- and family-friendly welfare society by 2040

Our vision for the Finland of 2040 is a child- and family-friendly welfare society where children, young people and families of all kinds dare to dream and trust in a good future. Healthy children, young people and families lay the foundation for a successful democratic society and sustainable economy.

The change we work towards

Itla's three impact goals outline the change that we promote through our operations:

- **A child- and family-friendly Finland:** Children, young people and parents actively contribute to the future. Respect for children, young people, families and future generations is reflected in attitudes, public discourse, decision-making and concrete actions.
- **Child-centered knowledge in use:** High-quality and diverse knowledge that accounts for children's perspective increases understanding in decision-making and promotes the wellbeing of children and young people in a changing world.
- **Child-oriented growing environments and services:** child-centred growing environments and services support the well-being/resilience of children, young people and families in a collaborative, effective and innovative way.

1. Child Protection Policy

Itla's work follows the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the national legislation, policy and guidance. All Itla's work is based on promoting children's wellbeing and a good future. Children's rights are a guiding principle in our work. It is important to us that we carry out our work in an ethically sustainable manner and we ensure that our partners commit to the same principles.

2. People

Itla employs 40 people (in 2024). Itla has a delegation of MPs that meets twice a year. Its role is to monitor, support and promote the Foundation's activities. The delegation elects Itla's Board of Directors. Itla's Governing Board is responsible for defining the Foundation's strategy and policies. The Foundation has a Chief Executive Officer who manages Itla's activities.

Itla's staff is committed to working in accordance with the foundation's impact objectives to promote the well-being of children and families. The activities of the staff are regularly evaluated, and those working directly or indirectly with children and youth commit to adhering to the foundation's child protection policy.

3. Procedures

Itla primarily collaborates with public entities, NGO's and policymakers to promote the well-being of children and families. In all activities, children's rights, privacy, and equality are considered.

The foundation's practices for promoting the well-being of children and youth:

- Refine and disseminate knowledge on current and future phenomena, as well as related solutions and effective methods, to support decision-making and the development of practices
- Promote the use of high-quality child-centered knowledge in decision-making, which is derived from various sources: research, foresight, evaluation, and experiential knowledge.
- Operate as part of ecosystems where we develop ways to form and use knowledge to achieve impacts.
- Accelerate the transformation of children's growing environments and services to be child- and family-oriented locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Support the willingness to change and the ability to innovate among actors affecting the well-being of children, youth, and families, as well as cooperation, co-development, and learning. Our work focuses on supporting well-being preventively and at an early stage.
- Strengthen constructive dialogue about a child- and family-friendly society and its future.

Ethical review and risk- and impact assessments are conducted when young people or children are involved for example in our research projects or participate Itla's events or work in advocacy or advisory group roles.

Safety and consent measures are applied whenever taking photos, audio or audio-visual record or otherwise depicting children. In context of interviewing and reporting, both confidentiality as well as children's right to have their views and to be heard must be considered.

We follow the principles for a safer space and the rules for a constructive discussion.

4. Accountability

Itla's activities are guided by both the board and the delegation. They ensure that the foundation's operations meet the impact objectives defined in the strategy concerning the well-being of children and families. The foundation's strategy is updated as needed. Additionally, Itla regularly collects feedback from stakeholders to improve and evaluate its activities. Itla is a member of the Association of Finnish Foundations, and we follow the guidelines for Good Governance of Foundations and the Code of Conduct for foundations.

10.4.2025

Katri Vataja

Chief Executive Officer

Itla Children's foundation