

Literature search on leadership in kindergartens in the Nordic countries

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About the search

This search was developed for the Meta-study “**The governing foundation for enactment of kindergarten leadership in the Nordic countries**” (Project no. NPHZ-2022/10009), which aims to look at research on leadership in kindergarten connected to the policy documents for kindergartens. The main research question is how the general notion of “the best for children” is mentioned and made operational as a mandate at the kindergarten level, in research on leadership in the Nordic countries.

Focus

The focus for this search was the following three key areas:

- **Leadership**
- **Kindergarten/preschools**
- **Nordic Countries**

“**Policy documents**” were considered not to be included in the search and were instead added as an inclusion criterion for the screening process.

About the bibliographic databases

In the **international** bibliographic databases with an English interface mostly the same search terms were used, with some exceptions where the controlled vocabulary may differ slightly from database to database.

In the **national** bibliographic databases from the individual Nordic countries, a list was retrieved from **Nordisk Förskola** (Nordic Preschool), a professional collaboration for leaders in Nordic preschools. Nordisk Förskola provided correct translations and synonyms for the various keywords for our focus topics (Leadership and Kindertartens/Preschools).

In the Icelandic database **Leitir** and the Finnish database **Finna.fi**, the search string was sent to “peer-review” to library colleagues from the respective countries to make sure the database was used correctly as these databases were unknown to us – and in a language where we were not confident.

The results in the different bibliographic databases were sorted (in the databases where possible) to exclude types of results according to the exclusion criteria (see attachment). In the databases where this sorting was impossible, those results will be removed in the screening process.

De-duplication and manual removal

The results were exported from the bibliographic databases to EndNote, where they underwent de-duplication and removal of references with a published date that did not fit the inclusion criteria.

Before de-duplication:

3056 references

After the removal of duplicates and manually removing references based on the year published:

1626 references

The search strategy for each database searched and the date the search was included are included in this document.

ERIC, 18.01.2023

#	Query	Results
S1	DE "Kindergarten"	15,100
S2	DE "Early Childhood Education"	57,437
S3	DE "Preschools"	239
S4	DE "Early Childhood Teachers"	894
S5	DE "Child Care Centers"	1,628
S6	DE "Child Development Centers"	373
S7	TI kindergarten OR AB kindergarten	22,345
S8	TI early childhood education OR AB early childhood education	12,303
S9	TI nursery school* OR AB nursery school*	1,671
S10	TI (preschool or preschool) OR AB (preschool or preschool)	29,386
S11	TI child care center OR AB child care center	2,351
S12	TI child development center OR AB child development center	656
S13	TI (ece or ecec) OR AB (ece or ecec)	1,770
S14	TI (nursery or nurseries) OR AB (nursery or nurseries)	2,852
S15	TI (day care or daycare) OR AB (day care or daycare)	5,736
S16	DE "Leadership"	14,568
S17	DE "Leaders"	1,971
S18	DE "Supervisors"	3,002
S19	DE "Administrators"	15,141

S20	DE "Principals"	23,046
S21	TI leadership OR AB leadership	55,560
S22	TI administrat* OR AB administrat*	120,635
S23	TI management OR AB management	86,785
S24	TI (leader or leaders) OR AB (leader or leaders)	49,472
S25	TI head teacher OR AB head teacher	1,926
S26	TI principal OR AB principal	40,003
S27	TI supervis* OR AB supervis*	29,293
S28	TI nordic OR AB nordic	636
S29	TI scandinavia* OR AB scandinavia*	638
S30	TI norway OR AB norway	2,721
S31	TI norwegian OR AB norwegian	2,233
S32	TI sweden OR AB sweden	4,825
S33	TI swedish OR AB swedish	4,525
S34	TI denmark OR AB denmark	2,091
S35	TI danish OR AB danish	1,451
S36	TI finland OR AB finland	3,260
S37	TI finnish OR AB finnish	3,156
S38	TI iceland* OR AB iceland*	653
S39	TI greenland* OR AB greenland*	87
S40	TI faroe islands OR AB faroe islands	9
S41	TI faroese OR AB faroese	5
S42	TI åland OR AB åland	0
S43	TI aaland OR åland OR AB aaland OR åland	1
S44	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15	98,040
S45	S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27	304,900
S46	S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43	19,317
S47	S44 AND S45 AND S46	240

SOCINDEX, 18.01.2023

#	Query	Results
S1	DE "Kindergarten"	862
S2	DE "Early Childhood Education"	1,429
S3	DE "Preschools"	352
S4	DE "Early Childhood Teachers"	66
S5	DE "Child Care Centers"	2
S6	DE "Child Development Centers"	24
S7	TI kindergarten OR AB kindergarten	3,388
S8	TI early childhood education OR AB early childhood education	1,020
S9	TI nursery school* OR AB nursery school*	662
S10	TI (pre-school or preschool) OR AB (pre-school or preschool)	6,613
S11	TI child care center OR AB child care center	519
S12	TI child development center OR AB child development center	219
S13	TI (ece or ecec) OR AB (ece or ecec)	243
S14	TI (nursery or nurseries) OR AB (nursery or nurseries)	1,549
S15	TI (day care or daycare) OR AB (day care or daycare)	3,111
S16	DE "Leadership"	10,056
S17	DE "Leaders"	1,134
S18	DE "Supervisors"	1,528
S19	DE "Administrators"	52
S20	DE "Principals"	37
S21	TI leadership OR AB leadership	29,021
S22	TI administrat* OR AB administrat*	86,530
S23	TI management OR AB management	92,448
S24	TI (leader or leaders) OR AB (leader or leaders)	36,982
S25	TI head teacher OR AB head teacher	469
S26	TI principal OR AB principal	24,078
S27	TI supervis* OR AB supervis*	29,537
S28	TI nordic OR AB nordic	1,930
S29	TI scandinavia* OR AB scandinavia*	2,225

S30	TI norway OR AB norway	5,318
S31	TI norwegian OR AB norwegian	3,612
S32	TI sweden OR AB sweden	10,521
S33	TI swedish OR AB swedish	7,052
S34	TI denmark OR AB denmark	4,552
S35	TI danish OR AB danish	3,043
S36	TI finland OR AB finland	4,969
S37	TI finnish OR AB finnish	3,233
S38	TI iceland* OR AB iceland*	1,025
S39	TI greenland* OR AB greenland*	245
S40	TI faroe islands OR AB faroe islands	32
S41	TI faroese OR AB faroese	17
S42	TI åland OR AB åland	10
S43	TI aaland OR åland OR AB aaland OR åland	17
S44	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15	15,554
S45	S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27	264,771
S46	S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43	34,599
S47	S44 AND S45 AND S46	34

Teacher Reference Center, 18.01.2023

#	Query	Results
S1	DE "Kindergarten"	896
S2	DE "Early Childhood Education"	2,760
S3	DE "Preschools"	646
S4	DE "Early Childhood Teachers"	213
S5	DE "Child Care Centers"	2,306
S6	DE "Child Development Centers"	15
S7	TI kindergarten OR AB kindergarten	3,591
S8	TI early childhood education OR AB early childhood education	2,019
S9	TI nursery school* OR AB nursery school*	488
S10	TI (pre-school or preschool) OR AB (pre-school or preschool)	13,575
S11	TI child care center OR AB child care center	248
S12	TI child development center OR AB child development center	80
S13	TI (ece or ecec) OR AB (ece or ecec)	196
S14	TI (nursery or nurseries) OR AB (nursery or nurseries)	1,637
S15	TI (day care or daycare) OR AB (day care or daycare)	384
S16	DE "Leadership"	3,805
S17	DE "Leaders"	493
S18	DE "Supervisors"	258
S19	DE "Administrators"	123
S20	DE "Principals"	101
S21	TI leadership OR AB leadership	16,248
S22	TI administrat* OR AB administrat*	23,968
S23	TI management OR AB management	24,926
S24	TI (leader or leaders) OR AB (leader or leaders)	16,952
S25	TI head teacher OR AB head teacher	2,900
S26	TI principal OR AB principal	11,071
S27	TI supervis* OR AB supervis*	4,906
S28	TI nordic OR AB nordic	205
S29	TI scandinavia* OR AB scandinavia*	158
S30	TI norway OR AB norway	644
S31	TI norwegian OR AB norwegian	503

S32	TI sweden OR AB sweden	1,001
S33	TI swedish OR AB swedish	875
S34	TI denmark OR AB denmark	576
S35	TI danish OR AB danish	417
S36	TI finland OR AB finland	857
S37	TI finnish OR AB finnish	602
S38	TI iceland* OR AB iceland*	154
S39	TI greenland* OR AB greenland*	60
S40	TI faroe islands OR AB faroe islands	2
S41	TI faroese OR AB faroese	3
S42	TI åland OR AB åland	0
S43	TI aaland OR åland OR AB aaland OR åland	1
S44	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15	21,763
S45	S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27	85,946
S46	S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43	4,912
S47	S44 AND S45 AND S46	14

Academic Search Elite, 18.01.2023

#	Query	Limiters/Expanders
S1	DE "Kindergarten"	3,794
S2	DE "Early Childhood Education"	10,045
S3	DE "Preschools"	2,042
S4	DE "Early Childhood Teachers"	931
S5	DE "Child Care Centers"	19
S6	DE "Child Development Centers"	63
S7	TI kindergarten OR AB kindergarten	15,177
S8	TI early childhood education OR AB early childhood education	7,435
S9	TI nursery school* OR AB nursery school*	1,712
S10	TI (pre-school or preschool) OR AB (pre-school or preschool)	44,186
S11	TI child care center OR AB child care center	2,476
S12	TI child development center OR AB child development center	739
S13	TI (ece or ecec) OR AB (ece or ecec)	4,169
S14	TI (nursery or nurseries) OR AB (nursery or nurseries)	18,500
S15	TI (day care or daycare) OR AB (day care or daycare)	17,842
S16	DE "Leadership"	49,610
S17	DE "Leaders"	10,321
S18	DE "Supervisors"	2,754
S19	DE "Administrators"	144
S20	DE "Principals"	395
S21	TI leadership OR AB leadership	155,200
S22	TI administrat* OR AB administrat*	751,646
S23	TI management OR AB management	1,221,655
S24	TI (leader or leaders) OR AB (leader or leaders)	285,615
S25	TI head teacher OR AB head teacher	4,318
S26	TI principal OR AB principal	252,630
S27	TI supervis* OR AB supervis*	106,460
S28	TI nordic OR AB nordic	13,102
S29	TI scandinavia* OR AB scandinavia*	15,155

S30	TI norway OR AB norway	45,447
S31	TI norwegian OR AB norwegian	28,989
S32	TI sweden OR AB sweden	64,108
S33	TI swedish OR AB swedish	48,910
S34	TI denmark OR AB denmark	35,197
S35	TI danish OR AB danish	31,140
S36	TI finland OR AB finland	34,915
S37	TI finnish OR AB finnish	22,281
S38	TI iceland* OR AB iceland*	14,791
S39	TI greenland* OR AB greenland*	12,906
S40	TI faroe islands OR AB faroe islands	822
S41	TI faroese OR AB faroese	306
S42	TI åland OR AB åland	216
S43	TI aaland OR åland OR AB aaland OR åland	298
S44	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15	106,857
S45	S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27	2,619,908
S46	S28 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR S42 OR S43	291,139
S47	S44 AND S45 AND S46	281

Scopus, 18.01.2023

37

((TITLE-ABS-KEY (kindergarten*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("early childhood education")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (preschool)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (pre-school)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (nursery)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("child care center*")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("child development center*")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (ece)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (ecec)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (daycare))) AND ((TITLE-ABS-KEY (leadership)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (leader)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (leaders)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (supervisor*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (administrator*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (principal*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (management)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("head teacher*"))) AND ((TITLE-ABS-KEY (nordic)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (scandinavia*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (norway)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (norwegian)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (sweden)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (swedish)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (denmark)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (danish)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (finland)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (finnish)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (iceland*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (greenland*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("faroe islands")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (faroese)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (åland))))

1,529 results

36

(TITLE-ABS-KEY (nordic)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (scandinavia*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (norway)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (norwegian)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (sweden)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (swedish)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (denmark)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (danish)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (finland)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (finnish)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (iceland*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (greenland*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("faroe islands")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (faroese)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (åland))

716,797 results

35

(TITLE-ABS-KEY (leadership)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (leader)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (leaders)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (supervisor*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (administrator*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (principal*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (management)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("head teacher*"))

6,037,200 results

34

(TITLE-ABS-KEY (kindergarten*)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("early childhood education")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (preschool)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (pre-school)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (nursery)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("child care center*")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY ("child development center*")) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (ece)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (ecec)) OR (TITLE-ABS-KEY (daycare))

1,133,386 results

33

TITLE-ABS-KEY (åland)

859 results

32

TITLE-ABS-KEY (faroese)

611 results

31

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("faroe islands")

1,602 results

30

TITLE-ABS-KEY (greenland*)

28,370 results

29

TITLE-ABS-KEY (iceland*)

27,412 results

28

TITLE-ABS-KEY (finnish)

50,683 results

27

TITLE-ABS-KEY (finland)

106,166 results

26

TITLE-ABS-KEY (danish)

61,554 results

25

TITLE-ABS-KEY (denmark)

110,252 results

24

TITLE-ABS-KEY (swedish)

102,316 results

23

TITLE-ABS-KEY (sweden)

189,069 results

22

TITLE-ABS-KEY (norwegian)

64,872 results

21

TITLE-ABS-KEY (norway)

132,045 results

20

TITLE-ABS-KEY (scandinavia*)

58,722 results

19

TITLE-ABS-KEY (nordic)

35,976 results

18

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("head teacher*")

1,225 results

17

TITLE-ABS-KEY (management)

4,934,099 results

16

TITLE-ABS-KEY (principal*)

736,668 results

15

TITLE-ABS-KEY (administrator*)

99,711 results

14

TITLE-ABS-KEY (supervisor*)

89,498 results

13

TITLE-ABS-KEY (leaders)

236,381 results

12

TITLE-ABS-KEY (leader)

236,381 results

11

TITLE-ABS-KEY (leadership)

244,166 results

10

TITLE-ABS-KEY (daycare)

3,101 results

9

TITLE-ABS-KEY (ecec)

1,863 results

8

TITLE-ABS-KEY (ece)

10,622 results

7

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("child development center*")

304 results

6

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("child care center*")

1,631 results

5

TITLE-ABS-KEY (nursery)

43,680 results

4

TITLE-ABS-KEY (pre-school)

11,062 results

3

TITLE-ABS-KEY (preschool)

1,053,357 results

2

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("early childhood education")

10,887 results

1

TITLE-ABS-KEY (kindergarten*)

24,424 results

SwePub, 26.01.23

(förskola OR daghem) AND (ledare OR föreståndare OR dagtilbudsledare OR förskolechef OR pedagog OR pedagogisk ledare OR rektor)

53 results

Leitir (icelandic), 26.01.2023

barnaheimili OR Leikskóli OR Dagheim*

AND

Stjórnun OR Stjórna OR Leiða OR Leiðbeina OR Framkvæmdastjóri OR Leikskólastjóri OR Fóstra

5 results

Any field

contains

leikskólastjórnun

OR

Any field

contains

Leikskólar

OR

Any field

Contains

Leikskólastjórar

121 results

Finna.fi, 26.01.23

(Title:Päiväkoti OR Varhaiskasvatuksen OR Subject:Päiväkoti OR Varhaiskasvatuksen) AND
(Title:Hallinta OR Johtaa OR Johtaja OR Subject:Hallinta OR Johtaa OR Johtaja)

339 results

Oria, 26.01.23

The search in Oria was done using Norwegian and English search terms.

Barnehage

AND

(leder OR leiar OR leiing OR ledelse OR pedagog OR styrer OR barnehageleder OR
barnehageleiar OR avdelingsleder OR avdelingsleiar OR førskolelærer OR førskolelærer OR
barnehagelærer OR barnehagelærer)

133 results

Any field

contains

leader* OR manager OR administrator*

AND

Any fields

contains

kindergarten* OR daycare OR "nursery school" OR preschool

AND

Any fields

contains

nordic OR scandinavia OR sweden OR norway OR denmark OR iceland OR finland

128 results

Norart, 26.01.23

Barnehage

AND

(leder OR leiar OR leiing OR ledelse OR pedagog OR styrer OR barnehageleder OR barnehageleiar OR avdelingsleder OR avdelingsleiar OR førskolelærer OR førskolelærer OR barnehagelærer OR barnehagelærer)

11 results

The Royal Danish Library, 26.01.23

børnehave* OR vuggestue

AND

leder OR styrer OR "pædagogisk leder" OR afdelingsleder OR børnehaveleder OR pædagog OR forstander* OR institutionsleder

168 results

Attachment, Inclusion and Exclusion criterias

	<i>Included</i>	<i>Excluded</i>
Time frame	2012–2022	Articles published before 2012 and after 2022
Publication type	Peer-reviewed journal articles, chapter in peer-reviewed anthologies, doctoral theses	Reports, none peer-reviewed books and book chapters, Conference proceedings, Master theses, Editorials.
Method	Qualitative and quantitative studies	
Language	English and Nordic languages	Other languages
Focus	Studies focused on leadership <i>and</i> policydocument related to kindergartens/preschools in one or more of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Island; Finland, Åland; Iceland; Norway; Sweden).	Context: countries outside the Nordic countries. Kindergarten/preschool teacher education and and further education Leading the children Governmental and municipal management of the ECEC sector Transition to school
Level of policydocuments	National frameworkplan / curricula for kindergarten /prescool	White papers Budget Municipal plans Local annual plans
Target population	Head teachers (manager) Pedagogical leaders (teachers)	Students Parents Assistants (other staff members)
Field	Kindergarten/preschool	Other fields