

Our **after-school activity** is an organized program catering to children between ages 6 and 9 primarily. We have extended our service to a few 10 year olds belonging to our Norwegian introductory class, as we are one of many schools in Oslo delivering extracurricular activities free of charge to third and fourth graders.

The after-school activity's main aim is to increase participation and contribute to the degree of learning basic skills of reading, writing, and computing among these pupils. Using results from literacy tests and customer surveys our Department of education can determine the positive effects of this measure.

Otherwise, the motivation for participating in an after school activity is often that working parents wish their children to be supervised. Interest in utilizing the after school program for delinquency prevention has increased also among migrant families even if the parents are without work. The program is state subsidized and income classified.

However, although the after school program may serve as a day-care facility for young children, our job is to convince all parents that allowing their children to enroll in activities outside of the traditional school day will provide them with opportunities for enrichment or academic improvement. These activities are a cornerstone of concerted cultivation, giving children experience with social interaction, leadership, independence and responsibility. They can develop social skills, self-esteem and establish strong relationships with caring adults.

The after school program gives children positive role models and a safe place to learn and play in an affordable and secure learning environment.

Our program includes academic, cultural, health and nutrition components.

The children are given snack, tutoring, active play opportunities, and ample exposure to Norwegian traditions, performing and creative arts, information technology and of course, outdoor education.

Our staff is comprised of well-educated individuals with various academic and cultural backgrounds. Three of our school assistants or AKS child councilors have attended higher education specifically aimed for child and youth workers in the after school program. We also have staff youth workers responsible for the well-being of children with special needs.