

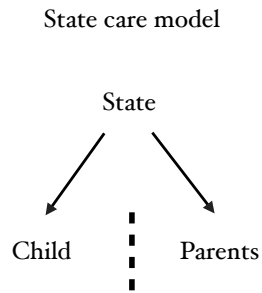








The Swedish day care problem in a nutshell  
– ultimate risk of social breakdown



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What do other Nordic countries do?

What about Finland with its great school outcomes?

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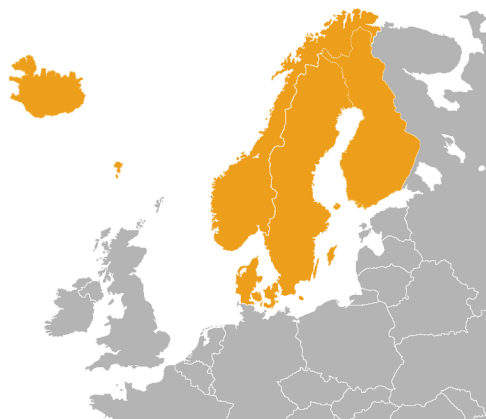
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Home care allowance – a Nordic comparison



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### **The Nordic Home Care Allowance 1-3 years of age**

**In Sweden was used for 2,5% of the children  
In Norway is used for 27% of the children  
In Finland is used for 56% of the children**

**Which country would you expect to have the best school results based on the information presented here today?**

**You are right, it is Finland.**

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### **Current Swedish family debate**

- \* The alarming state of Swedish schools – next biggest issue to immigration.
- \* The alarming state of youth psychological ill-health – a national health problem.
- \* Day-care expanded to Night-care, Weekend-care and Summer-care.
- \* Full time day-care encouraged – even when parents are on parental leave.
- \* Unemployed have to use day care in order to keep unemployment benefits.
- \* Gender neutral daycare and preschools – key theme in day care development.
- \* Men don't want jobs in pre-school – they feel judged as suspect pedophiles.
- \* "Parental anxiety month" – August – children back to day care and school.

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### **Reasonable learnings from the Swedish family model**

- \* It seems to be a well-supported hypothesis that Swedish family policies have lead to negative developmental outcomes for children, parents, and families.
- \* The basic reason for the negative developments seems be that individual child care has become a state political decision based on political ideology, rather than a parental decision, based on the needs of the individual child.
- \* Every society has to protect parental choices about the care of their children. The state should stay neutral to all forms of care, including home care, and not be supporting one over another, culturally or financially.
- \* The institution of family needs support and respect from government as family is the key institution for close relationships in the western world today.
- \* Work for the good of society needs to be acknowledged. Raising children is certainly one of them. Women sometimes make different choices than men. Their choices as highly valid and worthy of respect – true gender equality.
- \* Swedish family policies are not sustainable. They need to be researched and understood in depth before any attempt to emulate them in any way is done.

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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The  
**MIREJA**  
Institute

...welfare and development through family

## Links

- Mireja – The Mireja Institute, welfare and development through family  
[www.mireja.org](http://www.mireja.org)
- Articles in English by Jonas Himmelstrand  
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- Jonas Himmelstands speech on the future role of family;  
at a seminar in the Swedish Parliament December 8, 2008.  
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- Haro – Swedish organisation for freedom of choice, equality and  
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- Rohus – The Swedish Association for Home Education  
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