

# Together - parish and municipality as partners in collaborating

Building wellbeing and sustainable future

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# The meaning of religion / non-religious worldview

- ▶ The ground for sustainable future and wellbeing for children and families is cooperation in multiple levels.
- ▶ In Finland the early childhood education and care cooperates much with the church and the parishes.
- ▶ This cooperation is based on the common understanding, that religion and worldview (also non-religious) is meaningful and important part of children's lives.

# Official documents and background

- ▶ The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - ▶ “States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.” Article 14
- ▶ The Act on the freedom of religion:
  - ▶ Basic right that includes the freedom to believe, practice religion and belong to a religious community (positive freedom of religion) as well as the freedom not to believe, participate in practice of religion or belong to any religious community (negative freedom of religion).
- ▶ The Act on Early Childhood Education and Care:

“The aim of early childhood education and care is... to help the children develop their capacity to understand and respect the general cultural heritage and each child’s linguistic, cultural, religious, and ideological background”

# Underlying values of the National core curriculum for early childhood education and care

- ▶ The intrinsic value of childhood
- ▶ Growth as a human being
- ▶ The rights of the child
- ▶ Equity, equality, and diversity
- ▶ Diversity of families
- ▶ Healthy and sustainable way of living
  
- ▶ The Church shares these values


# WHY?

- ▶ Religion and non-religious worldview is part of cultural and social sustainability
- ▶ Children grow in a culturally and religiously diverse world. They need social and cultural skills and knowledge.
- ▶ In the society / in the early childhood education and care we have to give children the ability to listen, recognize and understand different views and to reflect one's own values and attitudes.
- ▶ Children need to understand their own cultural and religious background - then they can respect the one from others.

# What does the worldview education mean in practise?

- ▶ Children get to know and examine together those religions and other worldviews present in their own group.
- ▶ All present worldviews are equal - irreligion is investigated alongside other worldviews.
- ▶ The goal is
  - ▶ to promote mutual respect and understanding of varying worldviews
  - ▶ to support the development of the children's cultural identities and worldviews.

# In the every day

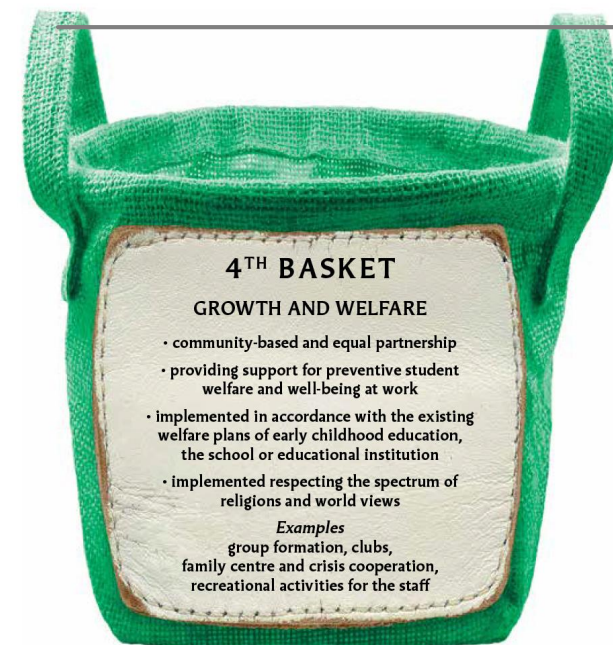
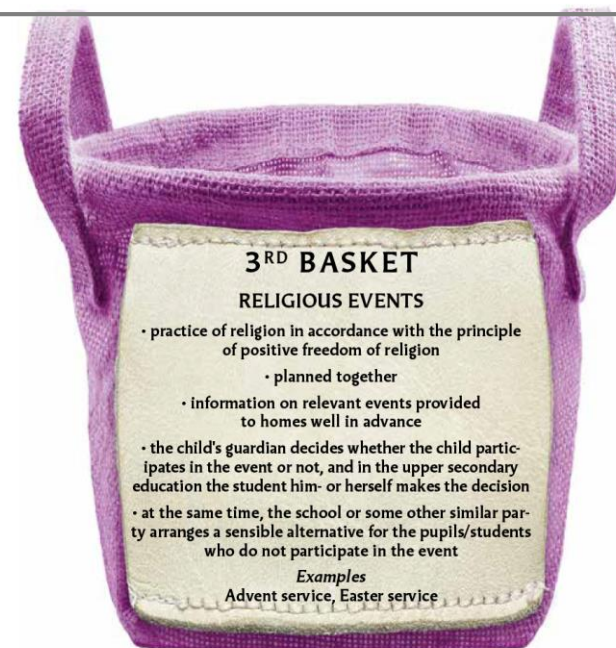
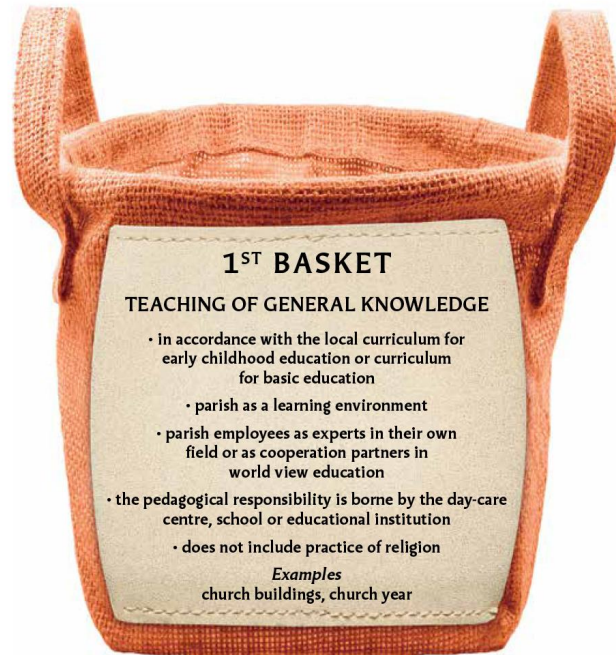
- ▶ Annual celebrations and events as well as daily situations, such as dressing or meals, provide natural opportunities for examining worldviews.
- ▶ Through discussion with the children and families
- ▶ By stories, music, art, play, drama, visitors and visits
- ▶  Room is given for the children's wondering, and life questions that puzzle them are reflected on together.
- ▶ The personnel show interest on children's thoughts on religious/worldview matters
  - ▶ act as model and give example of a respectful attitude

# Can the church/parish cooperate in this area? How?

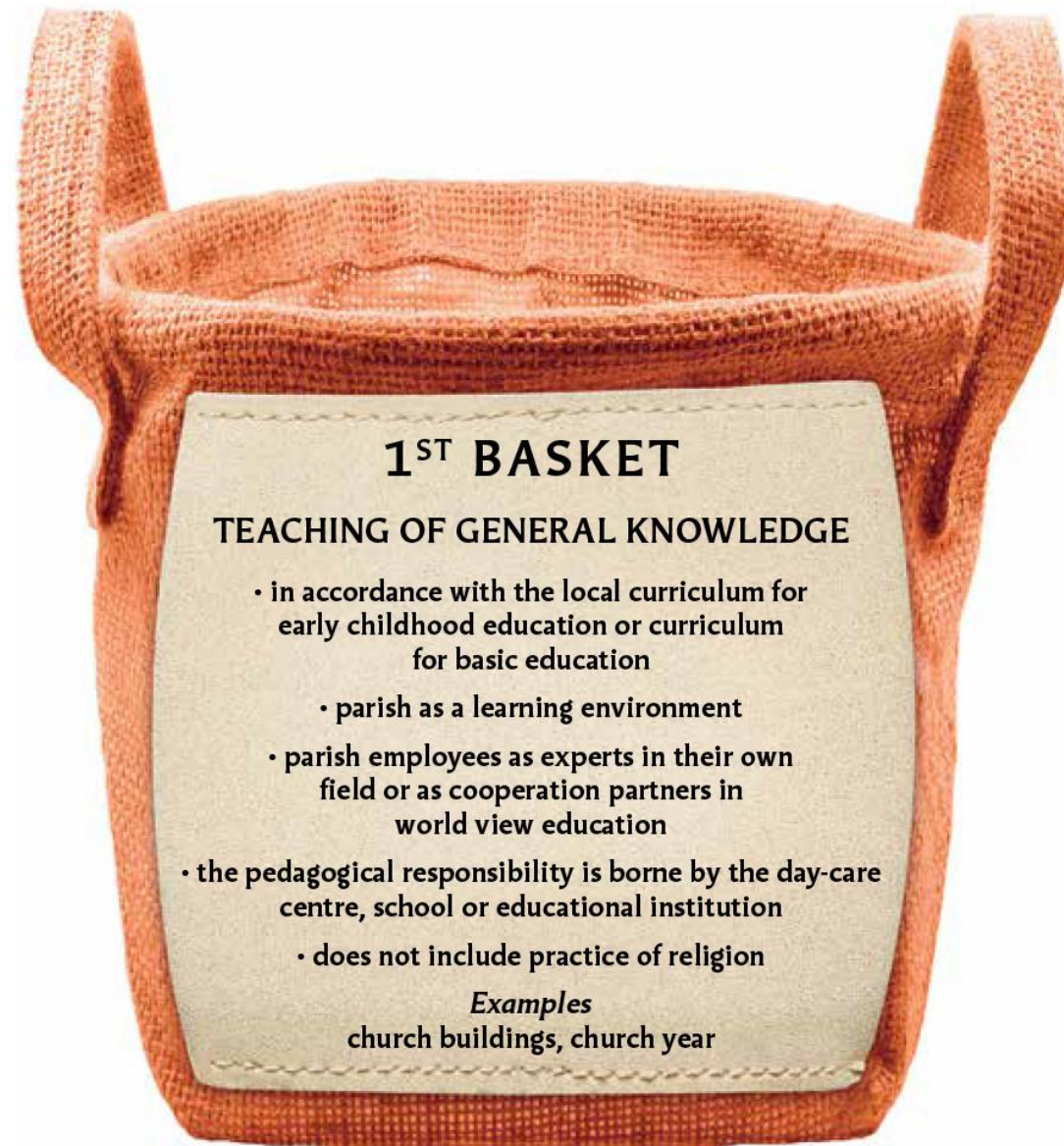
- ▶ In Finland we have a long history of good cooperation between the early childhood education and care and the local parish.
- ▶ The workers in the church/parishes have a lot of experience and knowhow in religious matters.
- ▶ According to the national core curriculum all religions and worldviews are equal - none is presented better than the others in the early childhood education and care.
  - ➡ We need guidelines for our cooperation.













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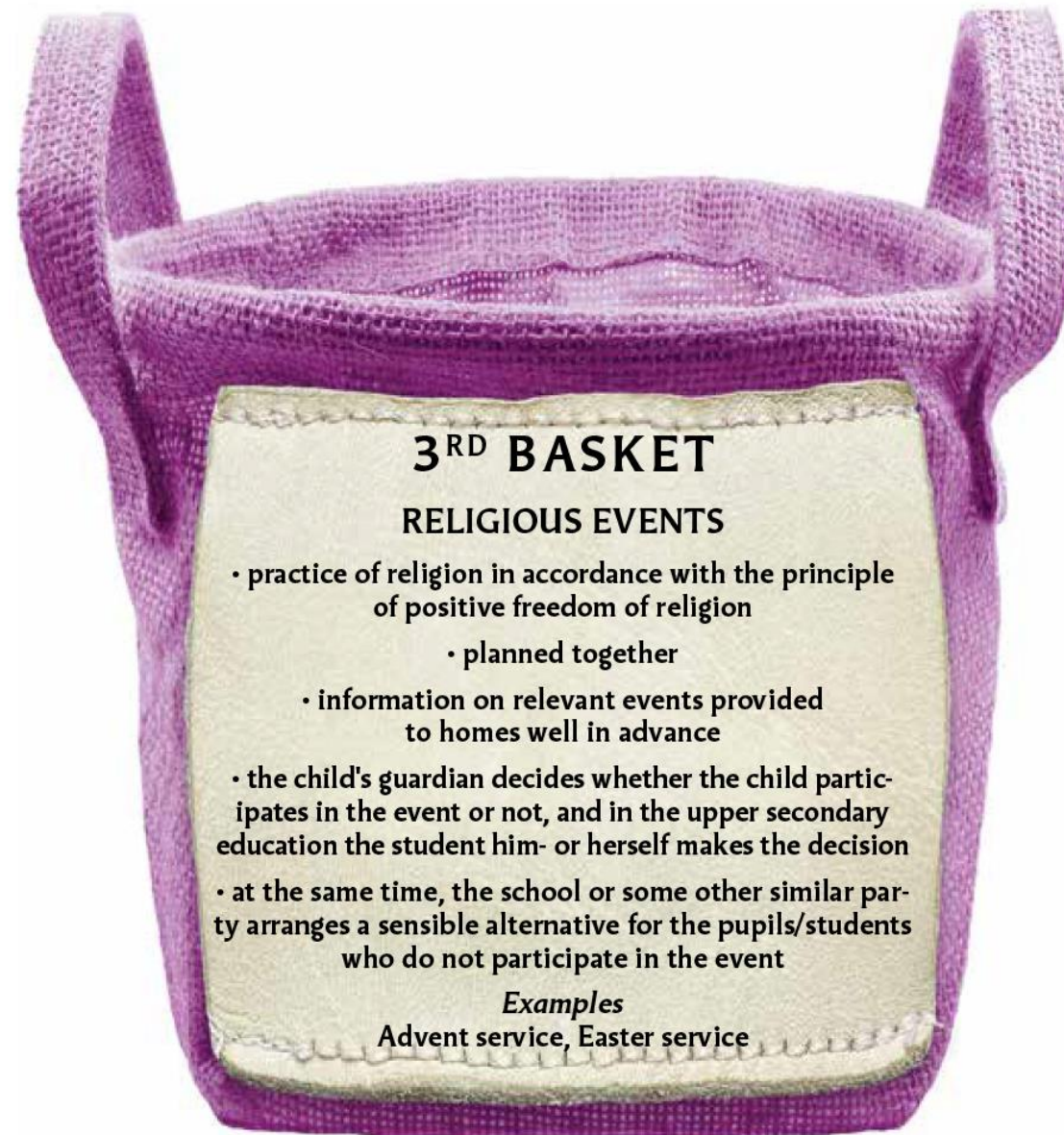
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