



# LYKE CRITERIA

**EACH BRANCH MUST MEET CRITERIA 1–9 FOR ACTIVITY CENTERS. ADDITIONALLY, DEVELOPMENT CENTERS MUST MEET AT LEAST TWO OF THE DEVELOPMENT CENTER CRITERIA 10–12.**

## **CERTIFICATION CRITERIA: LYKE ACTIVITY CENTER (CRITERIA 1–9)**



**1. The branch annually organizes regular nature or environmental education activities for groups of children and youths.**

*“Nature or environmental education activities refers to programs offered to early childhood education groups and/or schools, which are intended to promote an ecologically sustainable future. The duration of each program is at least an hour, and typically several hours at a time. The programs are made available through a public application, reservation or registration process, which means that the activities are directed at an audience that is wider than a single school, for example.” (Rules of the Finnish Association of Nature and Environment Schools) The principles of nature and environmental education activities feature prominently in all LYKE certified activities.*

**2. The operation of the branch supports achieving the objectives for sustainable development education specified in the curriculums and/or early childhood education plans.**

*The necessity of a sustainable way of life is the essential starting point of the value base of the National Core Curriculums for schools and early childhood education. The staff of the branch have an adequate understanding of the National Core Curriculums and take them into account in planning their teaching and other activities.*

**3. The branch provides support to teachers/educators participating in the activities with their groups to allow them to implement environmental education and the objectives of sustainable development in their work.**

*Each visit to a LYKE branch also provides further training to teachers participating in the program with their group. Methods and teaching tips are provided to the teachers and educators, and options for implementing the objectives of sustainable development education in the school's teaching or practices are demonstrated through examples and methods used by the branch. Teaching tips and materials are added to the MAPPA material bank.*

**4. The teaching methods of the branch are based on experiential, phenomenal and/or exploratory learning. The teaching methods are inclusive and pedagogically justified.**

*The provided programs include activities, exploratory learning, phenomenal and/or experiential elements. In their teaching, the teacher takes different target groups into account along with the different starting points of groups as well as different learners. The programs reinforce the inclusion of children and young people.*

**5. The learning environment of the branch consists of nature or other operational environments that facilitate activity-based environmental education.**

*The learning environment consists of nature or other operational environments that facilitate activity-based environmental education (such as a museum or a nature center). The branch may have a fixed location, where education is provided in a natural environment. Mobile branches come to the customers and in this case the learning environment is chosen based on the visited location.*

**6. The activities of the branch are in accordance with a sustainable way of life. The customers are encouraged to act sustainably in their daily lives.**

*Acting in accordance with a sustainable way of life can be demonstrated in the following ways, for example:*

- *Attention is paid to waste prevention and the produced waste is sorted.*
- *Attention is paid to the consumption of electricity and heat.*
- *Attention is paid to the consumption of water.*
- *Any purchases are considered from the perspective of sustainability (for example, long-lived and versatile equipment, avoiding single-use products, favoring services, products with environmental labels)*
- *The customers are encouraged to make sustainable food choices with regard to packed lunches or other meals related to the program.*
- *The customers are encouraged toward bicycle and pedestrian traffic and public transport.*
- *During the visit, the branch shares information about their sustainable methods with the customers and encourages them to act sustainably in their daily lives.*

**7. The branch has permanent, year-round staff and at least one member of staff is a qualified environmental educator or has similar training.**

*Appropriate education for working as an environmental educator could consist of:*

- *A degree in pedagogy, which includes environmental and natural science studies as well as environmental education studies*
- *A degree in environmental or natural science, which includes pedagogical studies*
- *Specialist vocational qualification in Sustainability and Environmental Technology with environmental education as a competence area: [http://www.oph.fi/download/149951\\_Ymparistoala\\_EAT\\_2012.pdf](http://www.oph.fi/download/149951_Ymparistoala_EAT_2012.pdf) (p. 85–88)*

*Additional information is available in Finnish at: [http://www.ammattinetti.fi/ammattit/detail/212\\_ammatti](http://www.ammattinetti.fi/ammattit/detail/212_ammatti)*

**8. The staff of the branch develops their environmental education competence by regularly participating in further training.**

*The further training may, for example, consist of the training events organized by the LYKE network of the Finnish Association of Nature and Environment Schools. The events organized twice a year promote cooperation between the members of the LYKE network.*

**9. The children and young people are included in the development of the operation. Feedback is collected on the activities, which is then used for development.**

*The feedback is collected from both the children and youths of the visiting groups and their teachers. The feedback is genuinely taken into consideration in developing the activities.*

## CERTIFICATION CRITERIA: LYKE DEVELOPMENT CENTER



*The LYKE development centers develop and promote environmental education in their area. In addition to the certification criteria 1–9, each development center must meet at least two of the following criteria:*

- 10. The branch actively participates in the operation of the environmental education network in its area.**
- 11. The branch supports and promotes the Green Flag (Vihreä lippu) program or other sustainable development programs in schools and nursery schools in its area.**
- 12. The branch provides training that supports the objectives of environmental education and sustainable development for educators and teachers.**