

The Hjallastefnan English Programs

The English lessons taught at Hjallastefnan schools are broken into three programs: Standard English for children ages 1 to 5; Subject English for students ages 6 to 9 and Friday English for students ages 8 and 9.

Standard English

Children at many of the Hjalli playschools throughout Iceland enjoy this level of English lesson, which is itself structured in four parts-Opening, Songs & Vocabulary, Activities & Games, Closing. By structuring the lessons in this way the children become familiar with what is involved and what to expect during an English lesson. The songs and vocabulary are reinforced by the activities and games, meaning that much of the material is repeated several times within the same lesson.

Subject English

Starting at age 6 (grade 1) students are introduced to a more complex English lesson involving all the materials learned from their Standard English lessons. The songs and games are slowly phased out in favour of more advanced classroom activities which focus on manipulation of the language and expansion of their vocabularies as well as some written work and reading comprehension.

Friday English

Friday English lessons are completely different from the Standard and Subject English lessons. Each Friday both Hjallastefnan English instructors travel to the BSK Hjallabraut and BSK Vífilsstöðum, where they present 8 and 9 year students with a themed activity or project. Past lessons have included storytelling, sequential art, science experiments, music and rhythm, as well as several others. On occasion special lessons are introduced to the students, such as Hallowe'en and Christmas. During the Friday lessons the instructors speak only English and the students must help each other to understand.