



TRONDHEIM KOMMUNE

Office of Adolescence and Education

Child and Family Services





Child and Family Services/Barne- og familietjenesten (BFT) in the Municipality

Together with preschool day care centres and schools, amongst other things, Child and Family Services (BFT) fall under the 'Adolescence and Education' category of Municipal services. BFT is short for Child and Family Services. BFT provides all of its assistance measures pursuant to Norwegian law and is there to guarantee that children and youth have the best possible opportunities to develop.

Parents are chiefly responsible for raising their own children. Every child has a right to receive an education adjusted in accordance with its individual qualifications and needs. Together with a child's preschool day care centres or school, BFT is there to assist parents so that their children have a good childhood and grow up well.





Some important offerings from BFT:

Your Local Public Health Clinic/School Health Service

Local public health clinics are for children up to six years old and school health services are for children and youth from six to twenty years old.

Norway has a national vaccination programme and local public health clinics vaccinate all children. Local public health clinics also follow a child's development up and offer support and guidance to parents.

There are public health nurses at all local public health clinics and schools. Sometimes a doctor, or other health professionals, is also present. Children and youth who have sleeping problems, eating problems, problems with fear (or anxiety) or other problems can receive help and support from their local public health clinic or school health service.



Pedagogical and Psychological Services (PPT)

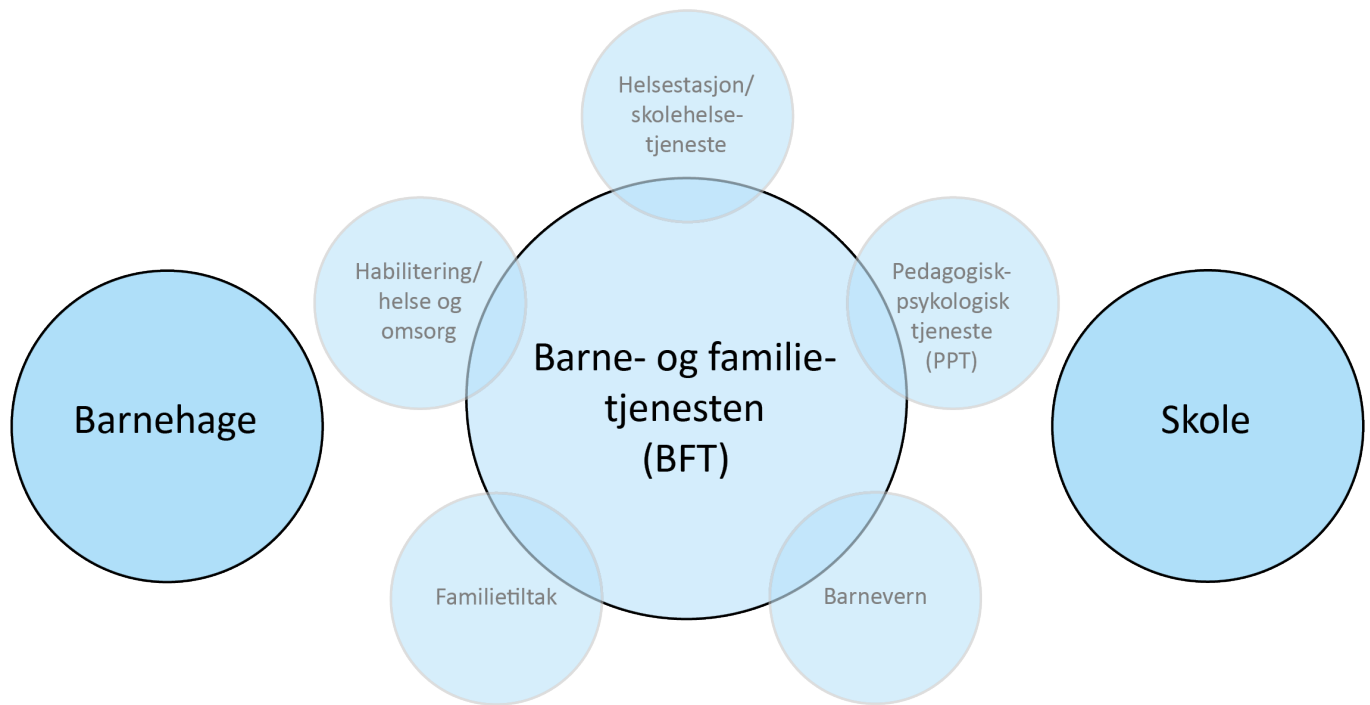
We are to guarantee every child or youth the best possible development. Some children need a little extra follow-up. If a preschool day care centre or school is worried about a child, it can refer the child to PPT. For it to do so, it must first obtain parental consent.

PPT will assist through arranging for the provision of the best possible pedagogical offering for a child-based on the child's own qualifications and needs.

Child Welfare Services (Barnevernet)

Child welfare services are to guarantee that any child (or youth) who is living in conditions that can injure its health or development receive the necessary care and help. Amongst other things, care has to do with meeting a child's need for love, food, clothes and personal hygiene, as well as the ability to set clear boundaries for a child. Child welfare services depend on having open and good cooperation with a child's parents. Having this is important if one is to find out what is in a given child's best interest. Child welfare services always try to cooperate with a child's parents on finding good solutions for a child and its family.





Parents can contact child welfare services directly if they wish to receive advice or guidance on how to raise their children.

Employees at preschool day care centres or schools, as well as others, can contact child welfare services if they are worried about a child. When child welfare services receive a child-in-jeopardy report regarding a child's care situation, they converse with the child, the child's parents, the child's local public health nurse and employees at the child's school and/or preschool day care centre.

In cooperation with a child and its parents, child welfare services will assess what to do, if anything, to provide future assistance. Sometimes, they conclude that a given family has no further need for help. If so, they close the case.

Occasionally, it is necessary that a child and its parents live apart from each other for a shorter, or longer, period. For example, child welfare services can move a child if there is a risk of serious violence, sexual abuse or substance abuse in the family. In any case, child welfare services' purpose is always to guarantee the child's health and security.

Family Assistance Measures Department (Familietiltak)

The Family Assistance Measures Department can offer children and youths, as well as their parents/families, conversation, guidance and assistance, both individually and as a group. Employees of the Family Assistance Measures Department cooperate with parents and tailor the assistance that they provide in accordance with a family's needs. The offering is voluntary. A family can contact the Family Assistance Measures Department either directly or through their child's local public health clinic, preschool day care centre, school or regular doctor/GP.

One offering available to parents is participation in an ICDP-group. ICDP stands for International Child Development Programme. Through it, parents meet in groups together with other parents to share their experiences of social interactivity with their children. The goal is for parents to become aware of what is good for their children and for any given participant to become a more confident mother or father. The group conversations take the participants' own experiences from day-to-day life as a point of departure and take place, for the most part, in their native language.



Rehabilitation/Health and Care Services

One of Trondheim Municipal Authority's goals is for children and youths with a reduced ability to function, as well as their families, to receive defensible and flexible services of good quality. A reduced ability to function can consist of, for example, problems with one's eyesight or hearing, movement difficulties, behavioural difficulties or reduced mental health, leading to a child having a greater need for assistance than other children of the same age.

Parents can make application for Municipal services, such as a personal support contact person/arranged leisure-time activities, relief, paid caregiving support or home care. In cooperation with a child's parents, Child and Family Services (BFT) will assess what services a child and its family have a right to and what services they need. The rights in question are enshrined in Norwegian law.



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