

## OPENING SPEECH - OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT WATER PROJECT

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Why use water as a research project for preschool children?

Water creates the necessary conditions for life. Is this something that children learn or are children born with a natural positive attitude towards water? We believe that it is the latter but preschools must give children further opportunities to encounter and understand the natural phenomenon that is water.

What is water? How does water feel? Has water any colour? Any sound? Any smell? Why does water exist? What can you do with water? Where does water go? There are many questions and therefore we must give children the opportunity to encounter water in as many ways as possible. Children must experience that water can come in different forms - as drops, ice, snow, or steam....

Our goal is that children will be able to encounter water in as many ways as possible, and that water can become a tool in understanding our surroundings, ourselves and each other.

“Vattnet i staden” (The water in the city) is the headline for our project together with the children, a headline that contains more than one aspect.

For a one-year old, water is right here and right now – in the water tap, in the bowl, in the bathtub, in the water puddle, and in that encounter the child assumes that the water is clean. They taste it and smell it – use all their senses to investigate the water. It is important that we as adults can provide CLEAN water! With today’s environmental pollution this is no longer self-evident for all children. But how can we as adults guarantee our one-year olds that the water they will drink when they grow up is clean? We have to! We believe that children who have a positive encounter with water develop respect towards the natural phenomenon that is water. Respect they will carry with them through life, a respect that will keep people from polluting the water that brings life.

The water we drink today is the same water our children will drink when they are adults: therefore we have to be responsible for our actions.