



- Child welfare will not require perfect parenting of you. A good enough parent is good enough.
- Ask what is expected of you.
- You have the right to demand openness and justifications.
- You have the right to know what is documented about your family.
- If something is bothering you, ask!
- You can ask a support person to come with you to the meetings.
- Think about what you, your child and your family need from child welfare.

Thoughts from the parents in the experience-expert group of Maunula, Helsinki

## Your child's social worker is:

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Additional information:

In the evenings, at night and on weekends, help will be given by:

Read more:

<http://www.lastensuojelu.info/en>  
<https://www.thl.fi/web/lastensuojelun-kasikirja>

The leaflet is produced  
by the **LasSe**-project



**TO PARENTS**  
about the assessment  
of child protection needs

Children have the right  
to love, care and a  
good life

*Every child has the right to protection and a good, safe childhood. Every child has the right to be loved, respected and understood.*

*Parents and guardians are responsible for the wellbeing and development of their child. They have the right to support and help in parenting.*

*The child protection professionals are there to support the children and families. They will assess (and if needed, ensure) the welfare of the child and the fulfillment of the rights of the child together with the parents.*

## **Why is the assessment of child protection needs carried out?**

- The parent(s) or the child has turned to child protection for help
- An assessment of child protection needs has previously been deemed necessary by a member of the social welfare team
- The social services have been made aware of a possible need for child protection
- A child protection notification has been submitted to the social services

## **How is the assessment of child protection needs made?**

- An initial meeting (usually held at the social office) is arranged with you.
- The professional who has submitted the notification due to concern for the child, will also be invited to the meeting. We will discuss the situation together.
- During the assessment you and your child will be met with together and separately. Your child's age and development stage will be taken into account.
- Together, we can think about who else might have additional information about the child and the situation. We can also meet with people close to the child and professionals together.
- At the end of the assessment you will be given a written summary. Everyone's views and the assessment of whether your child and family is in need of help and support by child protection will be recorded.
- The assessment has to be conducted within three months of the notification.
- If you need child protection services, your child becomes a client. A client plan is drawn up together, and the exact details of support measures will be agreed upon.

## **What does the assessment involve?**

During the assessment of child protection needs:

- We want to know how the child is, and what the daily life is like for him or her.
- The child's thoughts, opinions, feelings and wishes are expressed and heard.
- Parents thoughts about the cause for concern are heard, as well as their thoughts about the child's daily life and their own parenting.
- The child's individual needs, resources and strengths are identified.
- The parent's resources and strengths are identified.
- The network of friends and family involved with the child will be mapped out.
- Professionals known to the child will be invited to participate when necessary.
- There will be a comprehensive assessment of the child's situation and needs, as well as the parental ability to meet those needs.
- The possible support measures needed by the child and parents will be identified.