

# **Indoor climate in schools and kindergartens - Working Environment Act**

**The Norwegian Asthma and Allergy Association**

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# Indoor climate

- About 90% of the time people stay indoors in Norway
- The climate conditions might be especially challenging in some parts of the country
- The Norwegian Asthma and Allergy Association (NAAF) opened in 1994 a special unit after an increasing demand for consultancy regarding indoor climate.
- Topics in relation to indoor climate regarding:
  - Schools
  - Kindergartens
  - Places of work
  - Institutions
  - Building industry
  - Architects

# New regulation in 1996

- In 1996 Norway passed a regulation: " Working Environment Act for children and adolescents in schools and kindergartens...."
- The intention was to improve the environment both in schools and kindergartens, and to promote well-being, healthy social and environmental conditions, as well as preventing illness and injuries.
- This regulation was mainly concerned with planning, organizing and maintenance of the daycare centers and the schools.

# First step on the way to a better indoor climate

- This act was ment as an aid to:
  - Improve health
  - Create well-being
  - Take care of healthy social and environmental conditions,
  - Prevent illness and injuries
- Responsibility rests with:
  - School and daycare center management
- WHO- report (year 2000)  
[EUR/00/5020494/](http://eur00/5020494/)



# ”Working Enviroment Act” for children

- 1977 ”Working Environment Act” - protect norwegian employees against bad working conditions.
- 1998 a new and updated act relating to primary and secondary education ”Education Act” came.
- 2002 ”Working Environment Act for children and young people in schools” – addition to ”Education Act”



# New law ” Working Environment Act for children and young people in schools

- A duty to inform:
  - The directors of schools have an obligation to the parents to inform them about conditions that may have a negative influence on the childrens health.
  - This is because parents should have the possibility to influence their childrens ”working-environment”
- Architecture and design:
  - The buildings and outdoor surroundings should be carried out in a way that take care of persons with special needs.



# Education Act

## § 9a "Working Environment Act"

- The requirements of the law:
  - All pupils in primary and secondary education have the right to a healthy physical, mental and social environment, in order to promote:
    - Good health
    - Well-being
    - Learning
  - This right is regardless to School economy



# Education Act

## § 9a "Working Environment Act"

### The physical environment

– Schools have to be:

- Planed
- Buildt
- Organized
- Managed

in a way that take care off safety, health, well-being,  
and learning environment.



# Working Environment act in schools

- Indoor climate and air-quality
  - Air-quality.
  - Temperature
  - Relative humidity

# Working Environment act in schools

- In Norway there is no smoking allowed in schools areas
  - Inside
  - Outside



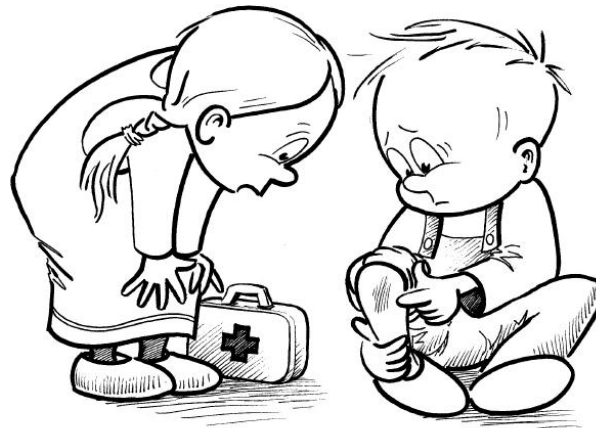
# Working Environment Act in schools

- Cleaning and maintenance:
  - Sufficient cleaning
  - Every day cleaning
  - Main cleaning



# Children with special needs

- The parents have to inform the school and kindergartens about the child's health condition and special needs.
- The school management has a duty to make arrangements in order to take care of children with special needs, for instance asthma and allergy.



# Responsibility and Punishment

- The responsibility rests with:
  - School and daycare center management
- Right to complain
  - The parents have a right to complain if school management violate the law.
  - If the complaint doesn't succeed, the parents may logde a complaint to the next level, which is the county governor
  - Sanctions and fines
  - Violations against these regulations will be punished with fines or prison, or both
  - ***The main responsibility rests with a higher level – that is the county governor, this authority is also supervisor.***

# Working Environment Act in schools

- Some daycare centers and schools have already succeeded in:
- Change of habits
- Change of routines
- Cooperation

For instance:

- Using indoor shoes
- Lowering the temperature to about 20 degrees
- Using cupboard with doors
- Tidying the classrooms

# Healthy indoor climate + in schools = good health

- An healthy indoor environment suitable to people with asthma and allergy, will create well-being and a healthy learning environment for our children.*

[www.naaf.no](http://www.naaf.no)

