



# Beekeeping at school

## Summary of project

Bees are our vitally important friends who pollinate our plants and the food we eat. They should be honored as extremely important organisms that should be cared for to a much larger degree than what we do today. Without the bees, our meals would become very meager. Around one third of our common food products are dependent on direct or indirect pollination by bees and other insects.

## Who is involved

The Waldorf school in Lørenskog (Oslo Norway) has bees since 2015 and today has five beehives.

## Key steps

The initiative came from a teacher at the school, but the responsibility for the beekeeping is taken by a father at the school. The school has also contact with an eager grandfather who brings a hand-driven honey centrifuge to the school each year and extracts the honey together with the students.

## How are the children involved?

The school tries to integrate so many classes as possible in the work with the bees. The youngest children sow bee plants in the school garden and the third grade gets to visit the bee enclosure as a part of their study of bees. They are also the ones who sling the honey and chose a name for new queens. Their drawings decorate the honey jars that are sold at the Christmas market.

## How is the project linked to food and farming?

Beekeeping is a trade that is done mostly to produce honey, but the beekeepers create greater values for agriculture through pollination of fruit and berries. Beekeeping is often overlooked in discussions about agriculture, although the economic value of pollination is enormous.

## How is the project linked to the school curriculum?

When the students reach the 6th grade it is again time to visit the bees. As a part of their botany lessons the focus is on bee-friendly plants and trees which can be found in the neighborhood. The class also make a flower extract which is made into a cream that is sold at the market. The students collect pollen and try to find out which plants the bees have visited.





### Positive outcomes

Beekeeping is also extremely important for maintaining variation of species in nature. Taking care of all our pollinating insects is therefore of utmost importance for biological diversity.

