

## Summary

The purpose of the survey was to hear what kinds of views young children seeking protection in Finland have on a good life. Another aim was to share this information provided by children with decision-makers, as well as with professionals and volunteers working with children, and to help them use this information to support their decision-making and development work.

The survey was carried out in spring 2023 in collaboration between UNICEF Finland, Save the Children, and the Ombudsman for Children. The survey involved 21 children aged between 2 and 9 years old. The participants were children enjoying temporary protection while living in reception centres and children applying for international protection who had come to Finland with a guardian. The survey data was collected using a visual storytelling technique, supplemented by discussions with the children about the picture boards they had made. The qualitative data was analysed by applying data-driven content analysis.

The results of the survey can be summarised into things that bring joy, things that cause sadness and fear, and dreams and hopes. As things that bring joy, children most often mentioned physical activities and sports, play and toys, loved ones and home, creative activities, pets and animals, the media, and birthdays. The things that made children feel sad or caused fear were war, illness, and loneliness. The most commonly mentioned dream or wish that children had was a pet.

The key conclusions drawn from the results are that it should be ensured that children have opportunities to play, move around, and remain physically active in their everyday lives. Children should have opportunities to share their own experiences with a safe adult and to participate in peer-group activities. Children should be provided with opportunities to spend time with animals. In addition to dealing with children's sorrows and fears, it is important to ensure that children also have in their lives things that make them happy and that enhance their dreams and hopes.

Keywords: Children, reception centre, temporary protection, international protection, asylum seekers, refugees, good life, wellbeing, children's rights