**APPENDIX 2**

**TEST GROUP DECISION, TEMPLATE**

Decision

Register number and date

The municipality confirms that XX (name and personal identity code of the child) belongs to the *control* *group* of the two-year pre-primary education trial in accordance with section 5, subsection 4 of the Act on the Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial (1046/2020). The control group was formed by random sampling and by decisions made by the Ministry of Education and Culture, in accordance with the Act. The municipality did not exercise its discretionary power in this matter.

**Grounds**

The Ministry of Education and Culture selects the municipalities or joint municipalities for the trial (*pilot municipality*) using the stratified randomisation method (section 4 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial). The pilot municipalities’ task is to organise two-year pre-primary education in the selected sites (section 5 of the Act). The pilot municipalities were chosen based on decision VN/583/2021.

The *target group* of the trial that will be launched in 2022 will include those children living in the pilot municipalities who were born in 2017 (section 4 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial).

Using the stratified randomisation method, the Ministry of Education and Culture selects from the sites that organise pre-primary education in the pilot municipalities the ones where the pilot municipality must organise two-year pre-primary education (*pilot sites*), (section 5 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial). The pilot sites were chosen based on decision VN/7615/2021. The sites that meet the requirements set in the Act, such as that a child can participate in both pre-primary education and the supplementary early childhood education and care in the same site, have been chosen as the sites that will organise the trial activities in your municipality.

Those children in the target group who are in early childhood education and care in a pilot site or who are not in early childhood education and care in a pilot site but who live in the pilot site’s catchment area form the *test group*.Children who belong to the target group but not to the test group form the *control group*.(Section 5 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial.) Some of the sites in your municipality did not meet the conditions laid down in the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial. Children participating in early childhood education and care in these sites have been assigned to a control group. If the municipality has not been able to offer all children at home born in 2017 a place in pre-primary education at a suitable site, the child has been assigned to the control group.

Under section 5 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial, the Ministry of Education and Culture must publish the programming commands used for the sampling, as defined in sections 4 and 5 of the Act, before the trial is launched, and make decisions on the pilot municipalities, pilot sites and pilot site catchment areas. Before the trial starts, the pilot municipalities must choose the children for the test groups and control groups.

**Participation in the control group**

The purpose of the trial is to see if the two-year pre-primary education has an impact on the children in the trial’s test group. To do so, a control group is also needed for the trial. No changes are being introduced to your child's education and care services; instead, your child will remain within the scope of ordinary legislation. This means your child can participate in early childhood education and care and in one-year pre-primary education, based on the choices you make.

Under section 9 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial, the following data related to the trial set-up and participation in the trial’s control group will be entered in the register for the trial managed by the Finnish National Agency for Education:

*1) name;*

*2) personal identity code;*

*3) national learner ID as defined in the Act on the National Registers of Education Records, Qualifications and Degrees (884/2017);*

*4) the pre-primary education site area where the child lives in autumn 2020 or 2021;*

*5) the provider of early childhood education and care and the site that the child will attend for early childhood education and care in autumn 2020 or 2021;*

*6) the child’s participation in the test group or control group.*

Under the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial, parents and other custodians cannot prohibit these details from being entered in the register for the trial.

Your child also belongs to the follow-up study related to the trial. Section 10 of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial includes provisions on the follow-up study:

*The realisation of the two-year pre-primary education trial’s objective is examined by monitoring and assessing the trial’s implementation, target group, pedagogical and action-based practices of the trial, and the trial’s core curriculum as well as local curricula. The pilot municipalities must participate in evaluating their activities externally.*

*The party performing the follow-up and evaluation has the right of access to personal data of the target group that are necessary for the follow-up and evaluation, free of charge and notwithstanding secrecy provisions. The personal data in question relate to the decisions and plans for early childhood education and care or teaching as well as the ways in which early childhood education and care or teaching is organised.*

*The party monitoring and evaluating the trial can perform assessments on the target group’s children that are necessary for examining the realisation of the trial’s objective. The assessments monitor the conditions for children to develop and learn, their social skills and the formation of healthy self-esteem.*

*An interim report will be drawn up for the Government and Parliament on the follow-up and evaluation by the end of February 2023, and a final report will be published in 2025.*

*The Ministry of Education and Culture is the controller of the personal data related to the follow-up and evaluation material. The follow-up and evaluation material are stored until the final report is published.*

The researchers conducting the follow-up study will be in touch with you later to tell you more about the study.

The test group was formed by random sampling and by decisions made by the Ministry of Education and Culture, in accordance with the Act. The municipality did not exercise its discretionary power in this matter. For this reason, the municipality cannot review the decision made on the basis of the Act on a Two-Year Pre-primary Education Trial and decisions by the Ministry of Education and Culture regarding your child’s participation in the test group.

For more information: The municipality’s contact person and contact details

Decision-maker

Presenting officer