



Jóhanna is a Compulsory School Teacher in lower secondary school (M.Ed.) I also have a Master degree in Leisure Studies. I am one of the supervising teachers of 4th grade and the headmaster of the younger department in Dalskóli in Reykjavík. Dalskóli is a lower secondary school of about 400 children.

As a supervising teacher I teach Icelandic, mathematic, English, social studies and natural science. I'm very

interested in growth mindset and how it can increase children's self esteem, empathy for themselves and others. Moreover, how they build resilience in every day lives. What I value the most in the Icelandic system of education is that I believe it embraces initiative and problem solving minded children. My life motto as a person is: It is ok. to make a mistake! My previous experience includes working in Kindergarten, special rescue team for marginalized people and in service center for families in the welfare system. My major interests are travelling, hiking in the nature, reading, knitting and hot yoga.

What is your role in Dalskóli? My role is being the head teacher of the younger department of the school as well as being supervising teacher of the 4th grade.

When you say Dalskóli - what images come to your mind? Cohesion. In Dalskóli, all the three department work together and stand together: The school department, the kindergarten and the leisure department. **What differentiates your school from other schools in Reykjavik? Is there anything unique?** Dalskóli is unique for creative workshops and handcrafting lessons.

From your bio, I see that as a teacher you pay much attention to the concept of growing mindset? Why is it so important? What methods of teaching are close to your heart? Growth mindset is empowering, it gives a child the possibility to continue after making a mistake. I believe in group learning and learning pals. Dalskóli teaches by formative assessment-based methods.

What do you appreciate most in the Icelandic education system? I believe that the Icelandic education system empowers students to become independent, initiative and problem-solving citizens.

How do you empower your students to believe in themselves although they make mistakes? Everybody makes a mistake sometimes. I embrace my own mistake and that's how it becomes normal and a part of our learning culture.

Which social competences do you focus on at school and why? Learning pals are important and the relationship between them, to be able to criticize in an empowering way and to show empathy to each other's.

What is the base of good communication at school? Grace, empathy and respect. Also, the courage to be yourself and to embrace the diversity.

Do you like to be a teacher? What is the most pleasant and most difficult thing about it? How do you improve your qualifications? I love my profession. I believe it is one of the most demanding jobs to do but it is also very pleasant and giving. It is important to be criticizing on what you are doing and being willing to reflect on your work all the time.

Do you visit schools abroad? Are there any good practices that you would like to implement in your school? Dalskóli goes abroad on learning trips. It is important to see new things and to be willing to learn new methods as to improve as a teacher.