

SALOLAMPI SAMPLER AT FINNFEST USA

The Salolampi Sampler is offered most years at FinnFest USA, typically three days in a row, for two or three hours each day. Timing of the event is scheduled in cooperation with the local FinnFest organizers.

The Sampler is offered to youth seven to fifteen years old, who are registered for FinnFest. There is no preregistration for the Sampler and it is free of additional fees. Parents are welcome to attend the Sampler, but only if they participate: no one is allowed to just watch. The ideal location for this event is in sight of other FinnFest participants, but out of traffic so that people aren't wandering through the activity area, and it is easier for staff to provide security. The event is staffed by experienced Salolampi staff, sometimes assisted by volunteers familiar with our methods. Instruction is in Finnish, using skits, motions, physical response, repetition, available realia and the materials brought along by the staff. Although the activities are prepared in advance, the schedule is flexible, and planned activities may be changed or modified on the spur of the moment to meet the needs of the participants present at each session. Participants are welcome to attend any or all of the three sessions, necessitating some repeated and some new activities ready to present each day. We ask each day's participants to provide their names and addresses, to facilitate follow-up communication.

Here is a typical schedule for each of the three days:

- 10:00 a.m. Participants (and some parents) are welcomed, sign in, choose Finnish names, and decorate name tags. Staff visit with returning participants, reviewing some of the previous days' learning.
- 10:15 We lead an active "mixer" activity. For example, staff will demonstrate basic greetings and phrases (Anteeksi, Hei, Terve, Kuka sinä olet?, Minä olen. . . , Näkemiin) while "bumping into" each other, shaking hands, and exchanging greetings. After each word or two, the participants move about, "bumping into" each other and practicing their new words. Returning participants may be asked to help demonstrate.
- 10:30 We teach songs, providing the meaning through skits, objects, pictures, involvement of participants, etc.
- 10:45 We go on a tour of the surrounding area, teaching vocabulary through "Total Physical Response," an effective language teaching method in which the participants do as instructed in the target language (nouse seisomaan, naura, osoita Susannaa, kosketa pöytää, juokse, missä on leijona?, etc.) If there are participants who speak some Finnish, the group can be divided into two or more smaller groups, so there is something new for everyone.

- 11:15 We provide a snack for the participants, continuing the exposure to Finnish.
- 11:30 Using TPR storytelling methods, toys and other objects, puppets, pictures, actions, staff and participants, to introduce vocabulary, a staff member will tell a story, which participants understand as it is being told. This is one of the most effective methods introduced in second-language learning in recent years, and is also enjoyable for participants.
- 11:55 Participants are offered a choice of activities. Some examples (depending on materials we have been able to bring along): Finnish stick walking, five-string kantele, a card game, simple crafts (birch bark rings, paper crafts, polymer clay jewelry or small figures, a sport or active game (depending on equipment possible: jalkapallo, pesäpallo or other ball game, mөлkky, hippa, etc.), children's games, reading Finnish (surprisingly popular). Activities are conducted, as at Salolampi, in Finnish.
- 12:25 Participants choose a different activity.
- 12:55 A brief information session about Salolampi (in English).
- 1:00 Näkemiin! (If parents of younger children have not arrived, staff stay with the children until the parents do arrive.)
- Other activities which we are prepared to "plug in" if needed include line dancing, additional songs, "new games" led in Finnish, conversation (with more advanced participants), questions and answers about Finland, participant skits.