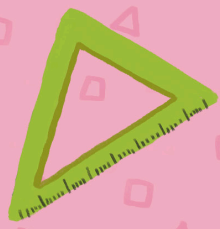
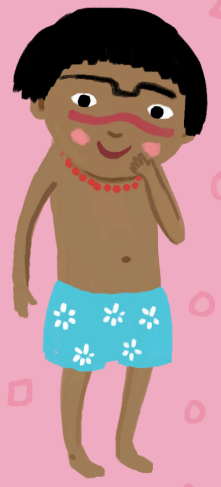
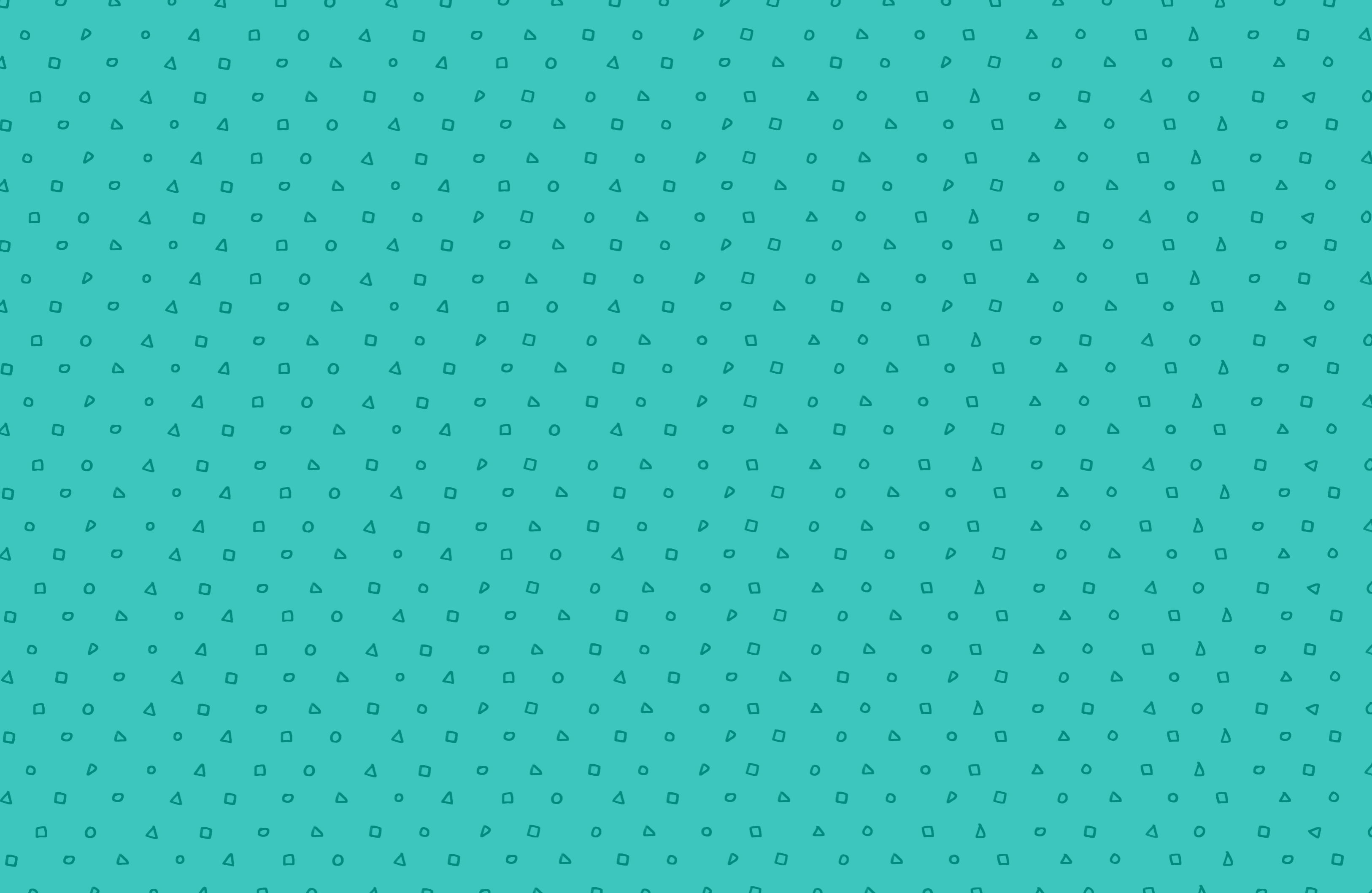





**Where
the World's
Children
Go to School**

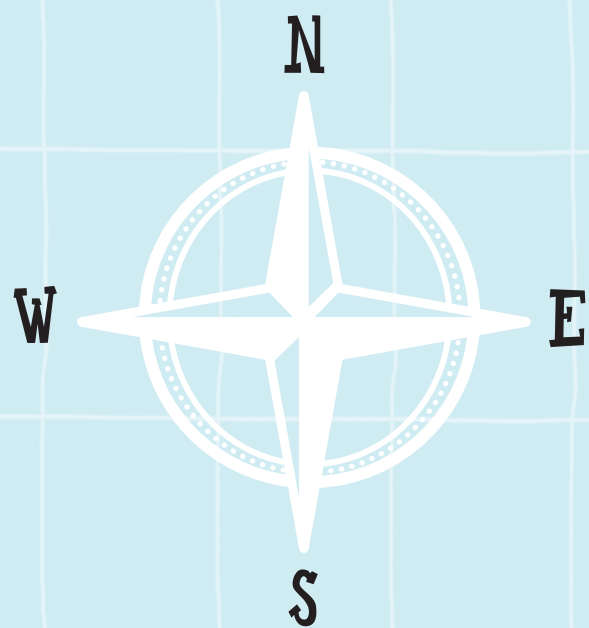




Where the World's Children Go to School



B4U PUBLISHING



Off to school -hurray!

Maybe you go to school already. Maybe you haven't started quite yet. Imagine all the places where children like you grab their books and make their way to school, every day! Big city, tiny village, desert, rainforest, by the sea, in the mountains—you name it, there's a school there. Children are the same everywhere, but are schools? Far from it! What pupils learn in class and how they acquire new knowledge depends on the country they live in and its culture. Differences are huge!



Do all children go to school?

It used to be the norm that children from poorer families didn't go to school. Instead, they began work at a very young age to help support the family. It was common for boys to be educated in reading, writing and sums, but not girls. Yet everyone on Earth has the right to an education! Today, international organizations work to ensure that all children—irrespective of gender, age, skin colour, nationality or faith—can go to school, with the result that the proportion of children at school is increasing year on year. Even so, around every twelfth child in the world is still unable to go to school.

My favourite subject is gymnastics!



They don't mark us at Montessori school!



Does age matter?

The age at which children start school is not the same in every country. In England and Argentina, for instance, schooling is compulsory from age 4, while Finnish and Indonesian children don't start school until they are 7. But have no fear: good teachers are prepared to teach pupils large and small.

I have a lot of friends at school!



My parents are proud of me!

School on a boat in Bangladesh

HI! MY NAME'S ANIKA, AND I COME FROM BANGLADESH. AS OUR VILLAGE IS IN A REGION CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD BY THE MONSOON FOR MUCH OF THE YEAR, I CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL. SO—GUESS WHAT? A FLOATING SCHOOL COMES TO ME! THANKS TO SCHOOLS ON BOATS, MY FRIENDS AND I GET AN EDUCATION ALL YEAR ROUND.

1 Old and new boat

Our school is made out of a traditional local kind of boat called a nauka. It is 15 metres long, 3 metres wide, and its roof—reinforced with metal beams—can withstand the heaviest rain. We are perfectly safe in our floating school.

2 Energy from the sun

Our boat takes its electricity from solar panels on its roof. This allows us to work with computers and an internet connection. How lucky we are: ours are the only computers in the village!

3 Learning at any time of day

To allow us to revise our schoolwork in the evenings at home, each of us has a small solar-powered lamp—a brilliant invention. I love to read when my younger brothers and sisters are asleep, and our home is quiet.



10 Life affected by floods

In the past, the children of our village were unable to go to school during the floods—because they couldn't reach the city, where the school was, through all the water. Owing to global warming, where we live the monsoon is an ever greater problem that causes devastating flooding.

9 The boat as school bus

Every morning, our floating school picks up children at a number of coastal stops. It takes us all home again in the afternoon.

8 Sustainability and thrift

As we see for ourselves how the mishandling of nature affects human life, in class we spend a lot of time learning about environmental protection. My parents come to the school to attend courses on the safe fertilization of crops.



7 School books for everyone

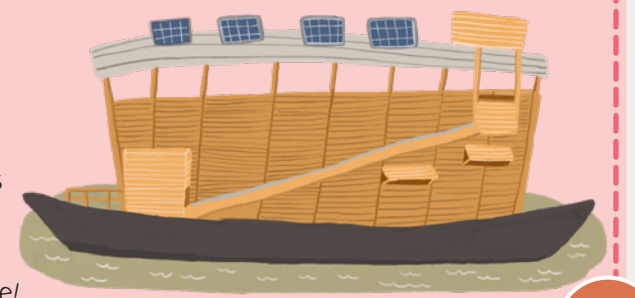
We get our school textbooks, exercise books and stationery for free. All parents support us in our education, believing that thanks to school we will not grow up to be poor.

6 Our ABC is important, and so are other things

Thanks to our great teacher, we can already read and write in Bengali. We spend some time every day on our sums, and we also learn practical skills we will need, such as how to purify contaminated water.

5 To the playboat hurray!

Lying at anchor next to our boat is another boat with a slide, swings and climbing frames. Imagine that! We adore this waterborne playground, especially at break-time!



HELLO, I AM ANIKA

4 Boat library

Our classroom has a library from which we can borrow adventure novels, comics, collections of fairy tales and many other kinds of literature whenever we wish.



School in Japan

HI! MY NAME'S **HITOMU**, AND I LIVE IN **JAPAN**. IN MY COUNTRY, PEOPLE THINK EDUCATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. JAPANESE SCHOOLS ARE KNOWN FOR BEING VERY DEMANDING AND FOR THE EMPHASIS THEY PLACE ON DOING WELL IN EXAMS. I SPEND A LOT OF TIME DOING HOMEWORK, EVEN IN THE HOLIDAYS, AND HAVE DONE SINCE I WAS SMALL. BUT AS YOU'LL SEE, IT'S NOT ALL STRESS AT SCHOOL—WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN TOO!

10 It's up to us to keep things clean and tidy

Japanese schoolchildren clean and tidy up after themselves. We mop the floor, wipe down the desks and clean the board; we even wash the windows. This teaches us to respect our surroundings and not make unnecessary mess.

9 Earthquake!

As earthquakes are a common occurrence in Japan, at school we often drill what needs to be done in the event of such a disaster. We should crawl under the desk immediately, put on a special head-protecting cap and hold onto the desk's legs.



8 School starts with the coming of spring

Our school year is divided into three terms. It begins in April, when the trees are in bloom. We welcome new pupils at a traditional ceremony. We have another ceremony to mark the end of the school year.

1 A respectful start to the day

We start the school day by standing to sing the school song together. After this, we bow to our teacher in a respectful greeting. When the day is over, we bow to the teacher again before we leave the school.

2 Hobby groups for every occasion

After class I don't go straight home, because I spend time in hobby groups organized by our school. In addition to all kinds of sports, we can choose from activities including kendo (traditional Japanese swordsmanship), shodo (calligraphy), sado (the Japanese tea ceremony), ikebana (flower-arranging) and haiku (Japanese poems in three phrases).



8

3 A uniform for a sense of togetherness

At our school, we wear a uniform. Some of my classmates don't like the uniform much, but no one complains about it. For Japanese people, togetherness and the good of the group are very important.

4 Uwabaki

Japanese people remove their shoes indoors. To make sure we don't bring mud into the classroom, as soon as we get to the school, we change into special cloth slippers called uwabaki. Practical, aren't they?



5 Three types of writing

To be able to read and write in Japanese, we must learn three types of writing! Higana and katakana are syllabaries (sets of symbols representing syllables), while kanji is logographic (i.e. it has characters for individual words).

9



7 Bon appetit!

As the meal is served in the classroom, no one goes home for lunch. Children dressed in an apron and headscarf serve everyone with the same healthy food. No one would dream of having a hamburger and chips instead!



6 Randoseru

Before I started in the first grade, my parents bought me a randoseru, the traditional leather backpack in which Japanese schoolchildren carry the books and stationery they will use that day.

School in Finland

MY NAME'S **TAINI**. I LIVE IN FINLAND, BEYOND THE **ARCTIC CIRCLE**. IN OUR RURAL AREA, THERE IS ONLY ONE SCHOOL, AND EVERYONE IN IT KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE. ALTHOUGH WE ARE A FAIR DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE NEAREST BIG CITY, OUR LIFE HERE IS ANYTHING BUT BACKWARD. YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO LEARN HOW MODERN OUR SCHOOL IS INSIDE ...

1 Wellbeing comes first

Our school is fitted and furnished with our comfort in mind. We can spend time at our desks, on a sofa, even on a favourite exercise ball. We are always happy to change our seating plan.

2 Local school curricula

In Finland, towns and villages manage their own schools. They even adapt the curriculum to their own needs. At our school, for instance, we sometimes talk about the Sámi, the original inhabitants of northern Scandinavia.



3 A good night's sleep

Our classes don't start until nine-thirty, and we have only a few lessons each day. This gives us lots of time to relax and have fun. Plus, we get a nice lie-in in the morning.

HELLO, I AM
TAINI

10 A child should behave as a child

We Finns don't start school until we are seven. Before then, we have plenty of time to enjoy childhood to the full. Even at school, play is understood as an excellent way to learn.

9 Technology in the modern world

At school, we often work with computers, tablets and an interactive board. We learn computer programming and practise it with educational computer games. But don't be fooled into thinking we spend all our time indoors. We go outside to learn from nature, too.



8 Teacher as family friend

One teacher teaches us all subjects, all the way through six grade. As a result, he or she gets to know us very well. In Finland, the profession of teacher is highly regarded. Only the best students get a place at a teacher-training college. Maybe Finnish education is among the world's best because the teachers are so enthusiastic.

7 Free school bus

In the Finnish countryside, people live quite far apart. A bus picks up children from even the most remote places, taking them to school free of charge so that they don't have to traipse through the woods or across a snowy plain.



6 School for all

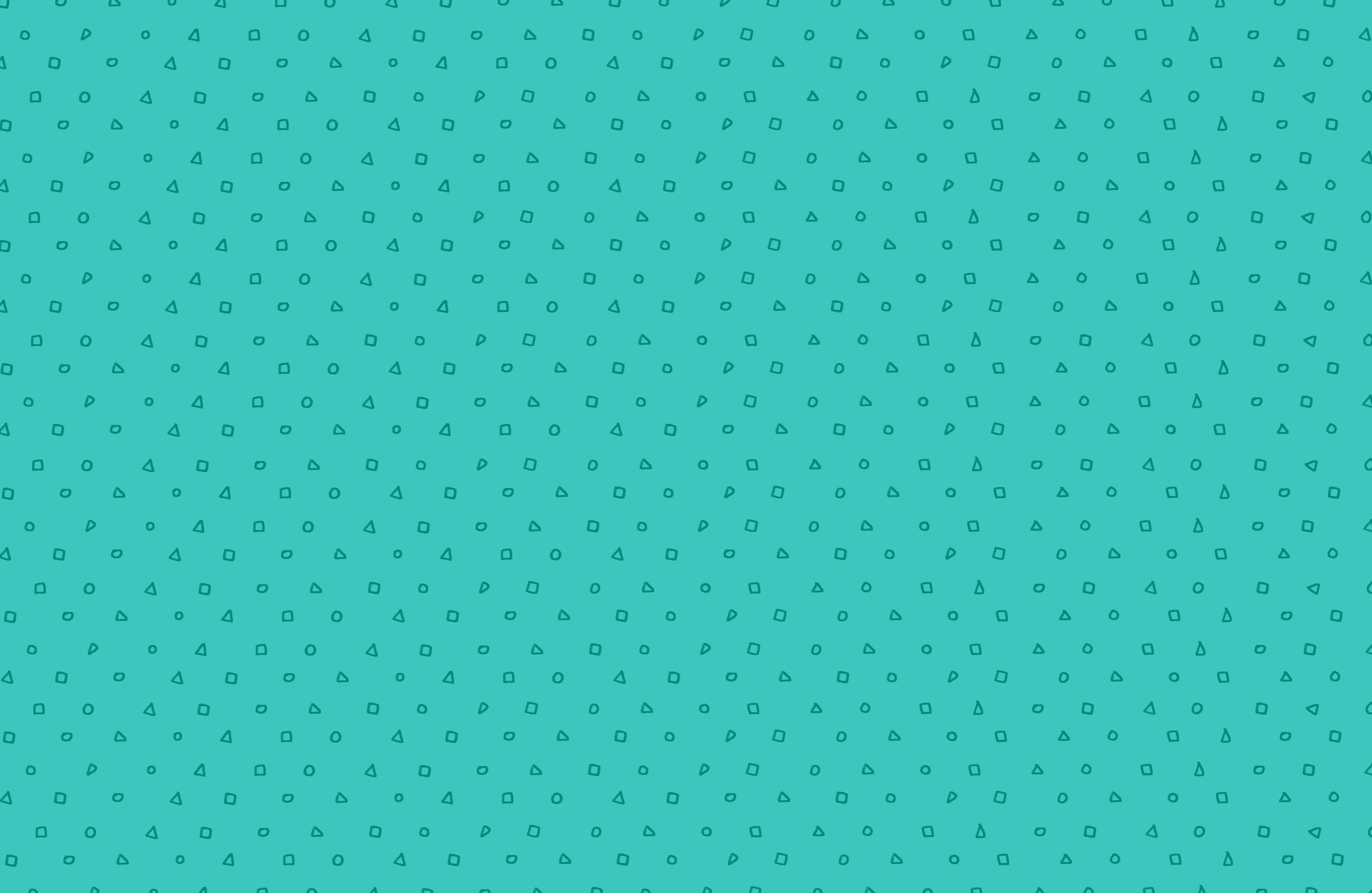
The school does its best to make everyone's learning easier. We get our schoolbooks and our lunch for free, and school psychologists are always around to help. Children who have limited Finnish because they were born abroad can attend special language classes.





Where the World's Children Go to School

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Illustrations by Michaela Bergmannová
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Where the World's Children Go to School

WRITTEN BY **HELENA HARAŠTOVÁ** AND **ŠTĚPÁNKA SEKANINOVÁ**
ILLUSTRATED BY **MICHAELA BERGHANNOVÁ**

Going to school is a part of growing up. Children the world over go to school – even those who live in the densest rainforest. Have you ever wondered what their school is like and what is taught there? And what about the lessons of future monks? There are even special schools for ballet dancers. Just imagine! So, if you wish to know how things go in schools in different places, this is the very book for you. Its pages will answer all your burning questions, and you will make lots of new friends besides.

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