

Valo – Preliminary Project to Strengthen the Social Inclusion of Families with Children

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What we are going to do to improve the social inclusion of families in danger of exclusion and their access to right services?

- Service designing: profiling families and developing suitable service paths
 - a right service at the right time
 - the professionals working with families have more tools to recognize the families' needs for services and to guide them to the right services.
- Family empowerment: recognizing and intercepting the circle of deprivation
 - Use of art based methods to improve social inclusion
 - Especially developing the Kids Draw-concept
- Transnational collaboration
 - Good practices and developing together

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Why we have to act now?

- The shift of social assistance from municipalities' social services to Kela –the Social Insurance Institution of Finland created a gap on service path
 - Other social services are still provided by municipalities
- The professionals in ECEC need more information on social and NGO's services for families
 - The child welfare notification is not always the best way to start helping, other ways to guide families are needed
 - The documentation of ECEC client services needs support and consistency
 - Indicator information on families' wellbeing is needed for
 - Families themselves
 - Service designers
 - Government (legislative obligation to report)

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How do we improve the social inclusion of families?

- Social inclusion and personal progress
 - Finding family's own strenght and potential for change
 - Indicator for wellbeing, integrated art and counselling models, group activities for families
- Active citizenship and accessible services for families
 - Families are able to find the right services at the right time
 - Professionals are more aware of the service paths
 - Coherent documentation of client work in ECEC services
 - Service design, networking, new tools for recognition and guidance
- Social inclusion and relationships
 - Recognition of the familie's own strengths and networking with other families
 - Group activities and group counselling integrated with Kids Draw, new structures for leisure activites for low income families

What is Kids Draw?

- A concept created by three service designers
- In 2017 they had 4 open-access events for families in Kouvola and contacted 450 persons
- The main objective is to provide high-quality art teaching for kids, who otherwise wouldn't be able to participate
 - Financial, social, mental or other issues
- Now we want to develop the concept into more socially inclusive form
 - Designing the concept for different focus groups: ECEC, Huomaa lapsi – Notice the Child-counselling model, leisure activity... The sky is the limit!

Three ways to participate



Project Partner

- Socom, Xamk and the transnational partner



Development Partner: Municipalities (social services and ECEC), Church

- Takes part in service designing and workshops
- Financier

Network Partner: NGOs

- Helps to reach the families
- Ready to pilot our tools and models

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