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KAUNIS  
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LAADUKAS  
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KIVA

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND  
SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR  
(SPECIAL) EDUCATION IN  
JOENSUU

YHÄN  
HALLINEN  
ROCK

ALVINEN  
KOUVUTTA

Minna Eskelinen  
City of Joensuu/  
Early childhood education and training center  
Leading school psychologist  
9.5.2016

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IHAN PARAS  
ROHKEA

# CONTENT OF THIS PRESENTATION

- A law of pupil and student service
- Communal and individual student service
- School psychologists and social workers in Joensuu
- School psychologist work
- School social worker work
- A project in Joensuu in 2013-2015
- "EMO"-class: the support to children who have most severe neuropsychiatric disorders

# PUPILS AND STUDENTS OF JOENSUU

- Population of Joensuu: 75514
- Amount of students:
  - Preschool pupils in schools 140 and in kindergartens about 540
  - Comprehensive school pupils 5620
  - Upper secondary school students 1 270
  - Vocational school students 2900

# A LAW OF PUPIL- AND STUDENT SERVICE

- The new law of pupil- and studentservice came 1.8.2014
- Pupil- and studentservice includes:
  - Advancing and maintaining of good learning, good mental and physical health and good social welfare
  - Action which increases aforesaid things in schools

# PUPIL- AND STUDENT SERVICE

Pupil- and studentservice is carried out:

- Primarily so that it prevents and supports the whole school community: "Communal student service"
- In addition "individual student service"

# COMMUNAL STUDENT SERVICE

- Means the action which advances pupils' and students' learning, welfare, health, social accountability, interaction and participation and in addition environment's health, safety and accessibility.
- A communal group of school is gathering a few times during the school year
- To communal group belongs usually headmaster, special education teacher, school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker and school health nurse
- => The aim is a healthy studying community.

# INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SERVICE

Includes:

- Services which are given to a single student:
  - Health care services
  - School psychologist and social worker services
  - Multiprofessional meetings
  - Social and health services which are given in special schools for the most mentally retarded children

# THE RIGHT TO GET SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST AND SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES (LAW 1.8.2014)

- Conversation with school psychologist OR social worker must be arranged at the latest of 7 days after request
- In urgent situations a meeting or a telephone conversation must be arranged at the same day or at the latest of next day
- The urgency is estimated by psychologist or social worker case-by-case.
- Before the new law, municipal pupil and student service were arranged only in municipal comprehensive schools  
=> Now they must be offered in private, secondary and vocational schools too.



# CITY OF JOENSUU / EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER / TEAM OF SUPPORTING SERVICES

In schools:

- ▶ Leading school psychologist
- ▶ 8 other school psychologists
- ▶ 11 school social workers

In daycare:

- ▶ 4 special kindergarten teachers
- ▶ 2 family advisers

▶ [WWW.JOENSUU.FI](http://WWW.JOENSUU.FI)

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# AIM OF THE WORK OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST AND SOCIAL WORKER

- To advance the welfare of school and student environments
- To advance the cooperation with pupils' and students' families
- To support pupils' and students' learning, skills, welfare and health

# SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN JOENSUU

- ▶ Leading school psychologist
  - ▶ Manager of school psychologists and school social workers
  - ▶ Administrative work (applications for smaller classes)
  - ▶ Developing of supporting services
- ▶ 6 school psychologist in comprehensive schools
  - ▶ 4-6 schools for 1 psychologist
  - ▶ Amount of pupils for 1 psychologist: 1100 (recommendation: 600-800)
- ▶ 1 school psychologist who works in class with children who have neuropsychiatric difficulties, grades 1-6
- ▶ 1 psychologist in vocational school
  - ▶ Amount of students 2900

# SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WORK

- Psychological examinations for 6–20 years old children and young
- Supporting conversations
- Supporting of teachers and parents for example related to child's development, education and training
- Working with classes and special small groups
- Being psychological expert in different school groups and other working groups
- Crisis work

# THE MOST GENERAL REASONS TO BECOME A CLIENT OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

- Different learning difficulties (reading, writing, mathematics, attention, spatial perceiving, linguistic / motoric / memory)
- Emotional or mood difficulties
- Behavior problems
- Fears
- Psychosomatic symptoms
- Social difficulties with parents or friends / loneliness

# SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS IN JOENSUU

- 2 social workers who works in class with children who have neuropsychiatric difficulties, grades 1-6
- 8 school social workers in comprehensive schools
  - 2-4 schools for 1 social worker
  - Amount of pupils for 1 social worker: 850 (recommendation 600-800)
- 1 social worker in upper secondary school
  - Amount of students 1300

# SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER WORK

- Supporting conversations
- Supporting of teachers and parents for example related to child's development, education and training
- Working with classes and special small groups
- Being social expert in different school groups and other working groups
- In autumns participating to parents's evenings
- Crisis work

# THE MOST GENERAL REASONS TO BECOME A CLIENT OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

- Emotional or mood difficulties
- Lack of school motivation
- Behavior problems
- Social difficulties with friends / loneliness
- Difficulties with parents
- Difficulties with boy- or girlfriend
- School bullying
- Fears

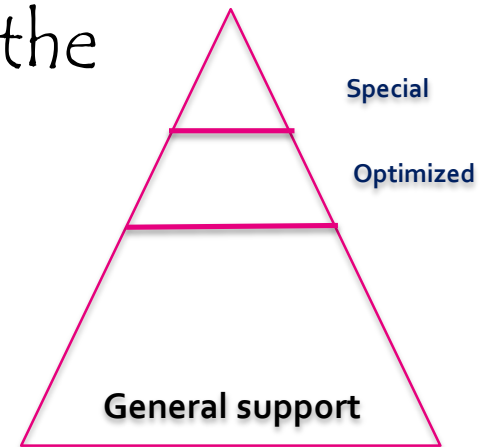


# PROCESS OF CHILD'S SUPPORTING IN SCHOOL

- ▶ A class teacher or special education teacher has a concern of child's learning, behavior or mood
- ▶ => Contact to parents
- ▶ => When needed, special education teacher estimates child's learning skills
- ▶ => Multiprofessional planning of supporting things to school (additional teaching, special education, small class, support of school assistant)
- ▶ => "Three-tiered support-system"
- ▶ => Guidance to school psychologist or social worker, if already given support isn't enough

# THREE-TIERED SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION (LAW 1.1.2011)

- Level 1, "General support", in which all pupils are at first and all the pupils have the same aim
- Level 2, "Optimized support", when a pupil needs regularly more help to studying
- Level 3, "Special support", when a pupil needs a lot of help to his/her studying and the need of support is assumed to be continuing long time



# THREE-TIERED SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION

- In level 2 and 3 a plan how a school supports the pupil is compulsory.
- In level 1 the plan is done only if needed.
- A child is moved from level to other based on multiprofessional appraisal.

# PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

- Examination of learning difficulties or mood, not wide personality examinations
- Examination includes parent's interview of child's development
- Teacher's interview of child's studying and already existing support
- Meetings with child (5-7 hours): testtasks, interview and observation of child while the examination
- When needed observation in class

# PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION...

- ▶ Feedback to parents
- ▶ A meeting in school with teachers and parents: feedback of the examination and planning the support, including the level of the three-tiered system
- ▶ Possible suggestions for rehabilitative special education
- ▶ A written feedback to parents and school
- ▶ Possible guidance to neuropsychological rehabilitation / different therapies / neurologist / psychiatric / school doctor / social worker of child welfare / family center etc.

# OTHER MEANS USED BY SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS

- Conversation
- Self evaluations of mood, emotions or thoughts
- Tasks of different workbooks (for example related to emotions, social skills, self-confidence etc.)
- Different cards which helps to estimate child's emotions or thoughts
- Drawing

# A PROJECT IN JOENSUU IN 2013-2015

- ▶ 3 psychologists worked only with preschool, 1. and 2. grade pupils
- ▶ Psychologists worked mostly with classes and teachers, not with individuals
- ▶ 3 things which were trained in classes:
  - ▶ Attention
  - ▶ Social skills
  - ▶ Emotional skills
- ▶ Process:
  - ▶ At first a psychologist observed the class 1-3 days
  - ▶ => A conversation between the psychologist and the teacher
  - ▶ => A decision between the psychologist and the teacher of what skill in that class is going to be trained
  - ▶ A psychologist planned and carried out the support in cooperation with the teacher (for example lessons, homeworks etc.)

# A PROJECT IN JOENSUU IN 2013-2015...

Roosa Hämäläinen's Pro Gradu-study 2016,  
results:

- Children learned skills well (estimated by the teacher)
- The teacher got more means to teaching these skills to children
- The teacher got more strength to his/her work (consultative support)

■ [WWW.JOENSUU.FI](http://WWW.JOENSUU.FI)

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# "EMO-CLASS", THE SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE MOST SEVERE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

## GRADES 1-6:

- 1 class, maximum 10 children, 3 special education teachers, 2 social workers, 1 psychologist, 2 school assistants
- The class is in Rantakylä comprehensive school
- Emphasis on early support!
- Parents must engage to work with the social workers
- The psychologist do neuropsychiatric rehabilitation with children

## "EMO-CLASS", THE SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE MOST SEVERE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS...

- The class serves all schools in Joensuu
- A child can be moved to this class OR
- The staff of EMO goes to a school and give consultative help to teachers and assistants
- The aim: A child rehabilitates and can return to his/her nearest school

# "EMO-CLASS", THE SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE MOST SEVERE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS...

## GRADES 7-9:

- 1 class, maximum 5 youngsters, 1 special education teacher, 1-2 school assistants
- The class is in Joensuu lyseo comprehensive school
- The aim: Rehabilitation and returning his/her own school
- Reality: Youngsters usually stay in this class because of long-term and severe psychic difficulties

# THE VISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER ☺

"In Joensuu everybody has a joy to grow  
up and learn  
- Together we are more."

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