

# Abstract

During the project period 2011–2013 of the Development Unit of Early Childhood Education (VKK-Metro), the observation and promotion of the welfare of children aged 4 became a central goal of the development work. The Hyve model used in the Helsinki metropolitan area was selected as the tool for investigating welfare. The model consists of an early childhood education discussion with the parents of a child aged 4 at the day care, and an extensive health examination at the child health clinic. In the project, the Hyve model was used to evaluate the child's welfare in addition to the importance of the co-operation of the day care and the child health clinic in promoting the welfare of the child and the family.

In this project, VKK-Metro's traditional network of research units consisted of research day care centres and research child health clinics. In addition, one family day care area was involved. There were a total of 20 research day care units and 11 research child health clinics. Some of the research day care centres were paired with a child health clinic.

The common goal of the day care and the child health clinic was to develop the co-operation and improve its functioning so that it could support the welfare of the child and the family in the best way possible. In addition to the development of the Hyve model, some research day care centres had development themes of their own related to the welfare of the children. For example, the themes could include developing child observation, preventing bullying, or involving multicultural families in the cooperation and the daily life of the day care.

This development report discusses what kind of information related to the welfare of children is produced and documented by the day care and the child health clinic. In addition, the quality of the information resulting from the co-operation in accordance with the Hyve model and its importance to the welfare of the child are evaluated. The research also includes future and development perspectives. The development report aims to present views on how the information provided by the day care and the child health clinic could be used to promote the welfare of the child. In addition, the possible challenges related to the co-operation are investigated, along with ways to turn the challenges into resources for co-operation.

The material forming the basis for the development report was collected electronically. The material consisted of Hyve information transfer forms saved on an electronic form in accordance with the Hyve model. The Hyve information transfer form guides the parents of the child and the day care and child health clinic staff in evaluating the welfare of the child and the family from different perspectives. The day care staff saved the Hyve information transfer forms on an electronic form. In addition, management level experts from the day care and the child health clinic were interviewed. Both interviewees work in Helsinki. Material from different research and documentation workshops that joined the project has also been used. The employees in the units that are part of the research day care and child health clinic network partici-

pated in these workshops. A total of 138 Hyve information transfer forms were recorded. This yielded detailed information on the co-operation between the day care and the child health clinic concerning, for example, documentation and information transfer, as well as the life and welfare of 138 children. The material was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Based on the results, it was found during the development project that the development of the co-operation between the day care and the child health clinic as well as the practices related to recording and documenting the information promoted the welfare of the child and the family. The co-operation in accordance with the Hyve model and the Hyve information transfer forms were considered successful in the project. Based on a systematic review of the forms, it seems that the day care and the child health clinic document important information on the welfare of children aged 4. These positive issues are called resources in this development report. The staff at the day care and the child health clinic recorded many resources related to the child's skills and knowledge as well as the child's interactive relationships.

Additional questions had been developed for the study with the goal of gaining deeper knowledge of the welfare of the child and the family. This study discovered that the additional questions provided important information, especially concerning the child's own point of view concerning his or her welfare. The children's answers showed which factors at the day care promoted the child's welfare and which prevented it. The additional questions also provided information on what effect the quality of the environment in which the child operates and interacts had on the child's welfare. The evaluations of the day care staff and the parents concerning the day care quality were consistent with each other, with the exception of the evaluations on the bullying the child had experienced and how the child actively initiated attempts to influence matters. Most parents did not know if the child had experienced bullying or if the child attempted to influence matters at the day care. The day care staff felt that bullying did not occur, and that the child actively attempted to influence matters concerning him- or herself.

Moreover, the additional questions also provided information on what the parents and the day care staff believed would promote the child's welfare and with which issues the child needed support. The evaluations of the day care staff and the parents on the day care quality concerning issues that would promote the child's welfare in day care were consistent with each other. The day care staff and the parents were not concerned about the children's development.

This development report describes research related to the evaluation of the operating model currently in use. The report has been created to support all day care and child health clinic employees and other actors working to promote the welfare of the child and the family.

VKK-Metro is the development unit of early childhood education in the Helsinki metropolitan area. It has both projects that involve permanent development that creates structures and projects for the development of different themes. The co-operation includes the cities of Espoo, Helsinki, Kauniainen and Vantaa, as well as the University of Helsinki. VKK-Metro is a part of the Katse Lapseen project (2011–2013).

Katse Lapseen is a part of the Lapsen ääni 2 programme, funded by the National Development Programme for Social Welfare and Health Care (Kaste). VKK-Metro uses a network of research units as its basis of operation. The personnel of the units are committed to common development for a period of two years.

Further information: <http://www.socca.fi/vkk-metro>