A New Innovative Approach to Early Childhood Intervention
THE VIDA PROJECT

Enrichment of preschools in a perspective of social innovation

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VIDA MIDWAY

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Lessons from ECEC research

High quality care

Economic effect of investing in high-quality daycare: each dollar invested in the program came back seven-fold

Developing the teacher’s competences, but also developing the entire daycare center’s competences as a whole.
VIDA 2010-2013

- Aarhus University, Department of Education
- University Colleges: UCS, UCN, UCLillebælt, UC Metropolitan
- Daycare centers from 4 municipalities: Randers, Horsens, Gentofte, Brøndby

Financed by the Ministry of Children and Education.
The aims of VIDA

- Can positive effects of VIDA ECEC be measured?
- What is the effect of supplementing VIDA- ECEC efforts with focused parental involvement?
- Which conditions in the pedagogical environment advance the opportunities for strengthening the learning and social inclusion of socially disadvantaged children?
- What is the significance of teachers’ qualifications for cooperating in a knowledge-based and innovative way?
Experimental study of the VIDA Program

- Involves 7,000 children in general day-care, randomized control trial (RCT-design) at the institutional level (120 institutions) in four municipalities (2010 - 2013)

- The program includes all groups of children; about 95% of all Danish children attend day-care

- Includes both qualified daycare teachers and assistants
Experimental study of the VIDA Program (cont.)

- Implemented in a determined and systematic manner in 80 intervention day-care centres, + 40 day-care centres that constitute the control groups
- The intervention covers both the basis program and the basis + parental program
Data

Effects using the “Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire” (SDQ) on children (3-6 yrs)

Different cognitive learning goals, e.g. language, science, concentration (screening) and a cognitive test (MINI-CHIPS)

Data correlated with data from Statistics Denmark (civil registration no. (CPR) on each child)

Information of implementation processes by survey to the manager and one teacher (N=235) and case studies
VIDA’s three perspectives of social innovation

• A resource-oriented and asset perspective, where children are seen as individuals with potential and rights to be included

• An active learning perspective that views individuals in the program, i.e. children, teachers and parents, as active, reflective participants

• An organizational learning perspective, i.e. the upgrading of staff qualifications to work innovatively in the entire daycare center
VIDA Full Training Program

1st year
- 1 full day of training every 2 weeks over a period of 4 months
- Teaching, reflection and knowledge sharing
- Local analysis of practices

2nd year
- 1 full day of training every 2 weeks over a period of 4 months
- Working with implementation and experimentation
- 3 full days of evaluation and documentation activities

Workshops
- A 2-day residential course for managers + 1-day follow-up regarding facilitation (1st year)
- Repeated 2nd year

AARHUS UNIVERSITY
VIDA – a knowledge based effort implemented in practice
VIDA – a knowledge based effort implemented in practice

Knowledge
- Folder with theoretical and empirical knowledge of ‘what works’
- Guidelines based on a pragmatic theory of learning a sociological theory of in/exclusion and a socio-cultural theory of resilience
- Curriculum based on the National Learning Plans

Reflection
- Reflection Tools: Status and the progression of children’s and teacher’s competences are measured
- Knowledge-sharing Tools: SharePoint for all groups, teachers, municipalities, University Colleges and Aarhus University

Implement
- Design of experimental learning processes and social inclusion
- Evaluation tools
- Models of organization the interplay between practice/municipality, education and research
Conclusions and perspectives

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Further information on VIDA organisation, participants and publications (2010-12)


http://edu.au.dk/en/research/research-projects/vida/


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VIDA FINAL CONFERENCE
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