

## Working towards a better collaboration – experiences from the project Sabir

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## Sabir- systemic work for children at risk

- Development program Voice of the child 2009-2011
- [www.lapsenaani](http://www.lapsenaani.fi)
- "To improve well-being and participation of children, youth and families by early support and intense working methods"
- Increased participation
- To support children in their natural development environment



## Context/ Sabir

- Multiprofessional network for swedish-speaking children and families in Helsinki: six pilote day care centers, three pilote schools, maternity- and child care clinic, social services ( family center, team for early support, family counselling, child protection), child psychiatry clinic
- FSKC Center of Excellence and Mathilda Wrede Institute: research and development unit



## Long-term goals

- Boundary crossing multi-professional work
  - Develop a user oriented systemic working model for children at risk
  - Availabel service
  - Flexibel work with clear structures between basic and special service
  - Increase developing and boarder-crossing acting space



## Starting position

- Relatively small and flexible network, still lack of knowledge and trust between the professionals
- "Day care centers and schools feel they are too long alone with their concern for the child"
- "The professionals work separated from each other, often parallel processes without enough meeting points – hard to succeed "
- "Further support contacts are too much dependent on parents' initiative"
- "Need for more mutual co-operation"

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## Characteristics for our development work towards a better collaboration

- Practitioners are also doing the development work, with access to project resources
- Forum for multiprofessional meetings and discussions: a possibility to increase collective knowledge
- View of participation: concerning both practitioners and users. The importance of continuing evaluating

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## System theory

- "Helicopter perspective and big picture"
- Relations between actors in the system
- The importance of the context
- Change in system starts from change in your own ways of acting
- "Not too similar, not too different: different enough"



## The working process: working seminars and forums for reflection and learning

- Seminars: increased shared theoretical knowledge
- Themes:
  - Support of children in their natural environments,
  - co-operation and confidentiality
  - Presentation of a systemic way of working/ Ludvika municipality, Sweden
  - Child perspective and participation
  - Dialogic work with families and social networks
  - How to better make use of multiprofessional knowledge
  - Dialogical approaches



### ... working process

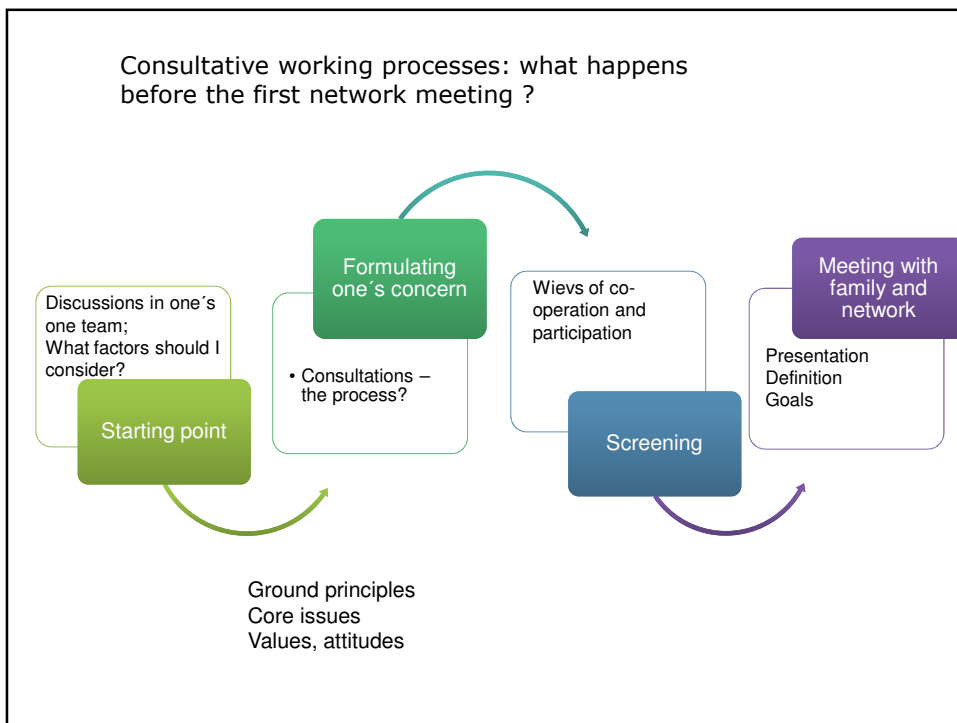
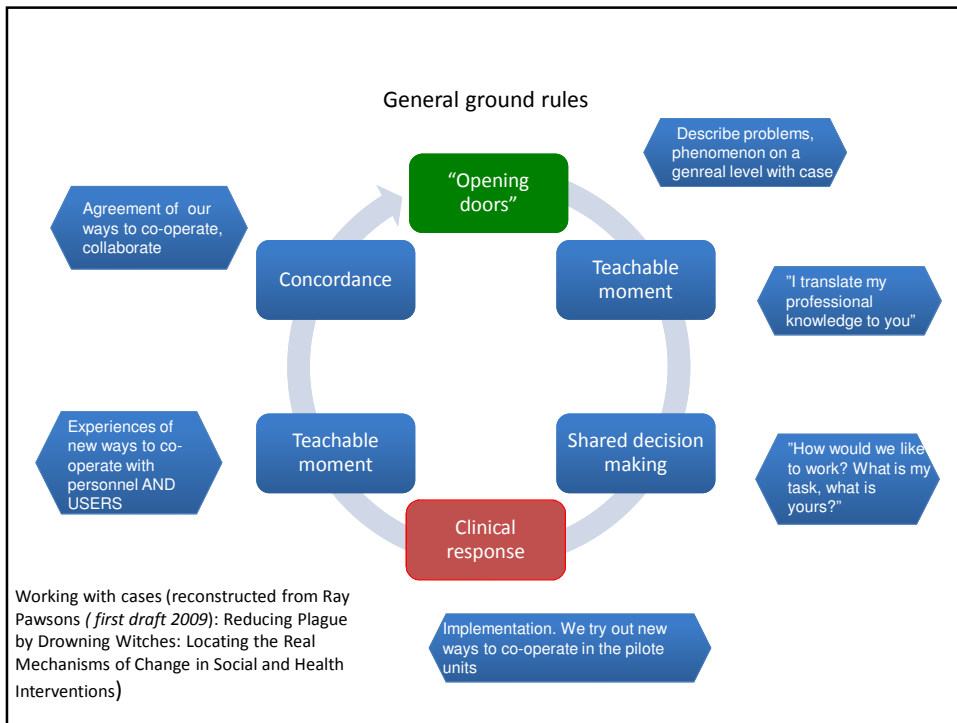
- **Forum for reflection and learning:** to study co-operation in practice/ Once a month
- From a child care unit context  
Pilote day care center, kindergarten teacher, maternity- and child care center, family center team for early support, family counselling, child protection, child psychiatric clinic
- From a school context:  
Represents of pupil welfare team från pilot schools, team for early support, family counselling, child protection, work against drugs, child psychiatric clinic



## Forum for reflection and learning

- Facilitator and documentation
- Part one: Clarifying working roles and role allocation in the network
- Study and reflect on the common work from one's own professional point of view, critical points in practical co-operation
- Part two: case studies
- Formulating common fundamental principles
- testing the principles





## Testing the principles

- Starting collaboration processes between pilote day care center/ schools and
  - maternity- and child care center,
  - kindergarten teacher
  - team for early support,
  - family counselling,
  - child protection,
  - child psychiatric clinic

## Corner-stones

- Trust among the actors
- To formulate and start from your own concern, to remember the strengths
- The family as a central recourse. Speak with, not about.
- The meeting as a possibility to gain bigger common understanding. Increased competence in dialogical methods.

- Reflective processes – professionals reflect with each other in the presence of the family
- The impact of the important adults in the natural environment of the child, and the response back to them



## On the way...

- The participation of the personnel, but also the need of support from the management: "order", encouragement, mandate
- The importance of learning more about one another's ways of working, the way the others build their understanding
- The need of collaboration gets more obvious, no body has the "magic wand"
- Ongoing formulating of common ground principles which will be tested together with the families



