

A New Innovative Approach to Early Childhood Intervention – the VIDA Project

Abstract

This presentation will focus on the innovative Danish Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)-intervention program, VIDA, which is based on a perspective of social innovation, defined as sustainable renewal aimed at enriching quality in everyday practice.

From educational, social and socio-cultural research we know that socially disadvantaged children struggle with impaired life opportunities during their school years and further education and also experience challenges in their social life. These challenges often lead to social and personal vulnerability, and effects of this vulnerability appear already in early childhood and daycare. The VIDA program develops and explores a new innovative method for enriching quality in center-based ECEC through the education and training of daycare teachers with a view to upgrading their professional qualifications so that they are better equipped to deal with the challenges of social inequality related to quality enrichment in daycare. The education and training of VIDA staff is on three levels: 1) Presentation of knowledge, 2) opportunities for reflection on own experiences of socially disadvantaged children and 3) local implementation of improvements designed by the preschool staff themselves and based on VIDA-Guidelines.

The effect of VIDA on all children will be studied and case studies of the implementation processes will document the quality of the intervention the program. In four municipalities 120 preschools were selected, 80 were randomly allocated to two intervention groups (40 in the VIDA group. 40 in the VIDA+ parental group) and 40 in a control group. The preschool staff assesses each child with the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and on Early Learning Goals (inspired of the English Study EPPE). Data are supplied with cognitive tests (Children's Problem Solving Skills).