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City of
Gothenburg

Agenda and report from the Transnational meeting in
Gothenburg 13-15 December 2017

*“The city where we read for
our children” How to involve
the whole city?*

Agenda

13th of December

Start up at Gothenburg main City Library, Götaplatsen 3 at 9 am

9.00-10.30 We introduce ourselves, who we are, where we work and what expectations there are for the meeting. Prepare around 5 minutes for each city

10.30-11.00 An introduction to the Swedish context - supporting institutions for children/ Anne Aldebrink and Hannah Pilhton coordinators for Family Centered Approach and Monica Carhult Karlsson, Preschool manager

11.05-11.50 Presentation of Equal Gothenburg, The City Where We Read To Our Children and Gothenburg public libraries work with children/ Malin Omland, Project manager for *The City where we read for our children* and Bodil Alvarsdotter, Children librarian consultant

12.00-12.45 Lunchtime

12.45-1.15 Guidance in the children's section of the library/ Gertrud Widerberg Project Manager of Bookstart, Noura Ahmed, librarian assistant.

1.20 – 2.05 Presentation of the *Rinkeby project*, a home-visits program involving child health-care, social services and libraries, Julie Lundgren, Development manager for evaluation and research, Center for Progress in Children's Mental Health

2.15-3.00 Presentation of *Bookstart* in Gothenburg, Project manager, Gertud Widerberg

3.15-4.15 Workshops about home visit

4.15-5.15 Steering group meeting

14th of December

Start up at Blå Stället in Angered. Angereds torg 13

9.00-9.45 Reading Ambassadors in socioeconomic disadvantage district/ librarian and project manager Marie Johansson, Reading Ambassador Noura Ahmed

9.45- 10.15 Chose by Discussions in group about challenges and possibilities when you work in socioeconomic disadvantage districts or have your own guidance at Blå Stället

10.15 Coffee break.

10.30 Guidance in Angereds library/ Annmarie Davidsson, manager Angereds library

11.00-12.00 Workshop with specific focus on newly arrived and multilingual families

12-1.00 Lunchtime

1.30-1.20 Lectures about Family center and Family Centered Approach method/Hannah Pilhton, Anne Aldebrink, coordinators for Family Centered Approach

1.30- 2.45 Study visit at Angereds Family center

3.00-4.00 Workshop about family Family Centered Approach

7.00 Dinner att Hagabions restaurant Kino

15th of December

Start up at Medborgarkontoret Frölunda, Näverlurgatan 11

9.00 Introduction to *Bästa stunden* ("The best moment"), a read and family promotion project aimed at children between 0 and 9 years old Erika Olofsson, Development manager Culture, leisure and urban development and Robert Hjerdt, manager Development for the Individual and Family Care / Disability sector

9.20-10.00. Introduction to *Read <3 Preschool*. A cooperation's between Gothenburg's public libraries and preschools, Anna Hedlund, library educator at the children's section in Gothenburg city library, Anna Bernheim, children's librarian.

10.30 -11.30 Study visit to a preschool involved in the projects presented

11.30-12.45 Evaluation of the days in Gothenburg

12.45-1. Lunch

1.30 -5.00 Steering group meeting

Documentation from transnational meeting, Gothenburg, 13-15 December 2017

We started up at Gothenburg main city library at 9.0 o'clock the 13th of December. It was the first time we all met each other in real life. We were all a bit excited with a lot of questions, curios about each other, this transnational meeting and what the project would result in. At the start all participants presented themselves and in what

organization they work. We went on with an introduction to the Swedish context and the key actions for reading promotion in Gothenburg.

Anne Aldebrink and *Hannah Pihlton*, coordinators for the Family centered approach introduced different Swedish institutions supporting children and families. *Monica Carhult Karlsson*, Preschool manager and *Karolina Månsson*, preschool teacher gave a broader introduction to the Swedish preschools. 83 % of all children in the age of 1-5 years is taking part of the preschools in Sweden. Children in the age of six goes to preschool class, which is organized as a bridge to the school setting. 98 % of the children goes to preschool class. From 2018 the preschool class is compulsory in Sweden.



Anne Aldebrink and Hannah Pihlton

Malin Omland, the project manager for Open the door for reading and responsible for the mobilization *The City where we read to our children* introduced Equal Gothenburg. The issue of creating equal preconditions is formulated as the most important challenge for the city of Gothenburg. The focal point for the work is that all children should have a good start in life and good preconditions throughout the school years. The ambition of Equal Gothenburg is to reduce disparities in living conditions and health in Gothenburg and ensuring that the city develops in a way that is socially sustainable.

The City Where We Read to Our Children” is a mobilization issue with clear links to the city’s aim of being an equitable city. The purpose of The City Where We Read to Our Children is to encourage reading WITH and TO children early in life. The implementation of the issue consists of three parts; skills development, activities and information efforts. The activities and learning are directed at professionals working with parents/guardians of young children. The primary target group is children between 0-6 years and their parents/guardians.

The overarching purpose with the mobilization issue is to make the complex work with Equitable Gothenburg visible to citizens and employees within the city. This means using the mobilization issue to demonstrate how we work in a tangible and concrete way with an essential and complex social issue.

Bodil Alvarsdotter, Children’s librarian consultant presented city wide reading promotion program for children:

- Basic stock of books for all new preschools
- An annual book gift for all children in third grade
- Small children’s book – a book gift for all newborn
- Book gifts for all children in third grade
- Authors week- Children books authors and illustrators from all over Sweden come to Gothenburg and have school visits
- “Worst book”- a book share out for young people between 13-25. The distribution is made in different public places all over Gothenburg
- Apple shelves- In the libraries we have shelves with media for children with special needs.

The City where we read for our children collaborate with the libraries in following projects:

- Read heart loud – fixed bags with picture books who can be borrowed at the libraries.
- Summer holiday book, a high-quality book gift for children between 6-7 years
- A book fest including, theater, reading, possibilities to borrowing books.

After lunch we had a guidance of the children section of the library with *Gertrud Widerberg* and *Noura Ahmed*.



Back at our conference, *Julie Lundgren*, Development manager for evaluation and research, Center for progress in children's Mental Health joined us. She had a lecture about *The Rinkeby Project*. The Rinkeby project is a home visiting program involving child health care, social service and libraries that has been carried out in Rinkeby, a suburb to Stockholm. The purpose of the Rinkeby model is to improve the condition for good mental health for children growing up in Rinkeby, by offering tailored support to their parents. The program includes six home visits in families with new born babies. The model will start to be implemented in some of Gothenburg cities socio economic disadvantages areas.

The themes of the home visits are:

- Attachment and parents and children interactions.
- Feeding
- Child development and stimulation.
- Parenting
- Child safety.
- Information's about infections and home care.

Children related outcomes:

- Decreased emergency visits
- Tooth decay 1,5 significant lower than control children
- 15% increase of children fully vaccinated

- High rates of preschool attendance
- Increase in library visits

Then we went on with *Book start*, home visits made by library staff. The aim is to stimulate the development of small children through home visits, book gifts and information on language development in several languages. Book start is an international reading promoting program which started in the UK. Among the partners cities of the project both Brussels and Gothenburg are implementing this model. The city of Gothenburg has been granted project funds from the Culture Council for 3 years to implement Book start in three suburbs in Gothenburg. *Gertrud Widerberg*, project manager of Book start in Gothenburg, shared her experience of the home visits in the project. She gave input on how to communicate with children about the books, how to overcome language difficulties and shared our local results of Book start.

The day ended with a workshop about challenges and possibilities with home visits.

Day 2, 14th of December.

The program for the second day was organized in Angered, at Blå Stället. Angered is a suburb in Gothenburg with about 52 000 citizens.

The day started with a presentation about a Reading Ambassadors project with librarian *Marie Johansson* and reading ambassador *Noura Ahmed*. The reading ambassadors meet families in places where they use to go, as open preschools, preschools and children health care center to inspire parents to read for their children. The reading ambassadors give families a bag with books and a Pippi- doll. The families are speaking about 30 different language. The two book ambassadors in Gothenburg, *Noura Ahmed* and *Sahar Ghobani* works at the city main library and speaks together seven different language. Marie gave an introduction of the background of the project and Noura explained how a meeting with the families could be like.



Blå Stället include Angereds library, *Ann Marie Davidsson*, the manager of the library gave a guidance of the library.

Before lunch there was a workshop with specific focus on newly arrived and multilingual families.

After lunch *Anne Aldebrink* and *Hanna Pihlton* had a lecture about family centered working method. It's a working method which is being implemented in Gothenburg in cooperation with the region. Family centers, open preschools (not co-located), preschools, schools, libraries and other hubs are arenas for the family centered approach

The core of the family centered approach is:

- The child seen as a competent and resourceful individual.
- The child is entitled to participation and influence in all decision that concern them.
- At the same time, the child should be treated as more vulnerable than adults and if necessary access to protection and support.

What could have suited better after that than a study visit to Angereds family Center? Angereds family Center includes an open preschool, maternal health care, children health center, social workers and staff from the local hospital.

We got an introduction by the different professions working at the Family Center and a guidance at the open preschool. At the preschool guidance we also got an energizer by practicing a children song with movement lead by the open preschool teacher.

The day ended with a workshop with focus on Book gifts for children growing up in multilingual families or with parents having reading difficulties.

Friday the 15th of December, we met up at the citizens office in Västra Frölunda, another suburb of Gothenburg.

Erica Olofsson Development Manager Culture, leisure and urban development and

and *Robert Hjerdt*, development manager for the sector Individual and family care / disability, introduced *The Best Moment*, a program to promote parents to read out loud for children in the age of 0-9 years old. The project started in 2014 and reach all parents in the district (5000 children). The target of *Best moment* is to inspire and motivate parents to read to their children.

Best Moment was followed by a lecture of *Read heart Preschool*, by librarian *Anna Bernheim* and librarian educator *Anna Hedlund*. *Read heart Preschool* is a cooperation between preschools and libraries.

Goals for *Read Heart Preschool*:

- More children should read
- Preschools and library should cooperate more
- Children's library should be used in daily life
- Preschools should inform parent about the importance of reading

Method used:

- Study circle
- Training days
- Personal commitment and books
- Cloack room library
- Library visits

The presentation was followed by a walk to a nearby preschool that has been part of both projects. The visit gave insights of how the preschools works with reading promotion.

When we come back we had an individual evaluation session for the days.

The days in Gothenburg also included three steering group meeting. We decided that the planned booklet should be a working manual promoting reading for all kinds of professions reaching children between 0-6 years old. For more information about the workshops, se attached file in google drive.

Friday afternoon we ended the last steering group meeting. The evaluations from that days gave a lot of new input for the participants.

