



**Pesäpuu ry**

LASTENSUOJELUN
KEHITTÄMISYHTEISÖ

**The Detectives ja the
Giraffes
- Young children's
participation in Substitute
Care**

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Pesäpuu ry



THE DETECTIVES



What do we do together?

We **INVESTIGATE** together.

We **DEVELOP**
together.

We **MAKE IMPACT**
together.



The Detectives

children 6 to 12 years of age, who are involved in developing of the child welfare system



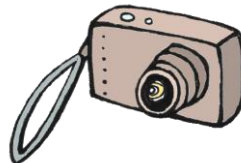
WHAT: Children investigate child protection to help a “detective Badger”, played by a puppet, who also lives in child welfare.

While assisting the Badger, children elaborate on important questions and help adults understand what is essential from their point of view.

HOW: The process with children can be organized as weekly small group meetings for a certain period or as a one-day workshop.

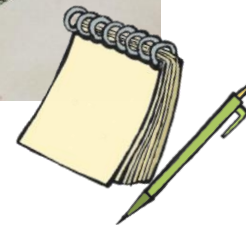
For the one-day workshop the child can choose an adult they trust to be their fellow detective and accompany them in the workshop.

The Badger Handbook for Detectives can be used to structure the process.



Themes covered in Detective activities:

- 🔍 What is child welfare?
- 🔍 What is a good social worker?
- 🔍 What is a good help?
- 🔍 What is a meaning of home?
- 🔍 What helps if you miss people who are close to you?
- 🔍 What love means?
- 🔍 Nice and safe daily life
- 🔍 Good visit from social work
- 🔍 Moving to a new place to live
- 🔍 Dreams and hopes
- 🔍 Kinship care



Materials from children to children and adults

Detective news is a magazine summarizing the development work children do with Detective Badger.

They contain information about the process to adults and examples of activities children and adults can do, but also relay children's thoughts and ideas about the themes.

They also have exercises, like quizzes and coloring, for children.

DETECTIVE NEWS

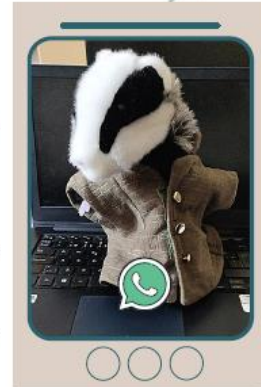
2/2021

Detective Badger and moving into kinship care



Moving into a new home with kin

Detective Badger needs help from the children. It's not safe for Detective Badger to live with his parents, so he is moving into kinship care. Badger has a lot of questions about moving into a new home, and he needs the child detectives to help answer them. This time, Badger decides to contact the children using the computer and makes a video call.



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THE GIRAFFES



The Giraffes

Children aged from 3-5 years living in foster care

WHAT: Children build up a story about a Giraffe, his/her families and friends. The gallery of characters is elaborated with children.

HOW: The process with children can be organized as weekly small group meetings for a certain period or as a one-day workshop.

Storytelling is the main method of working but also photographing has been used.



Materials from children to children and adults

Children have been naming different situations that Giraffe goes through.

These were made in a project against Domestic Violence with children aged 3–5.

Other children can recognize situations without words.

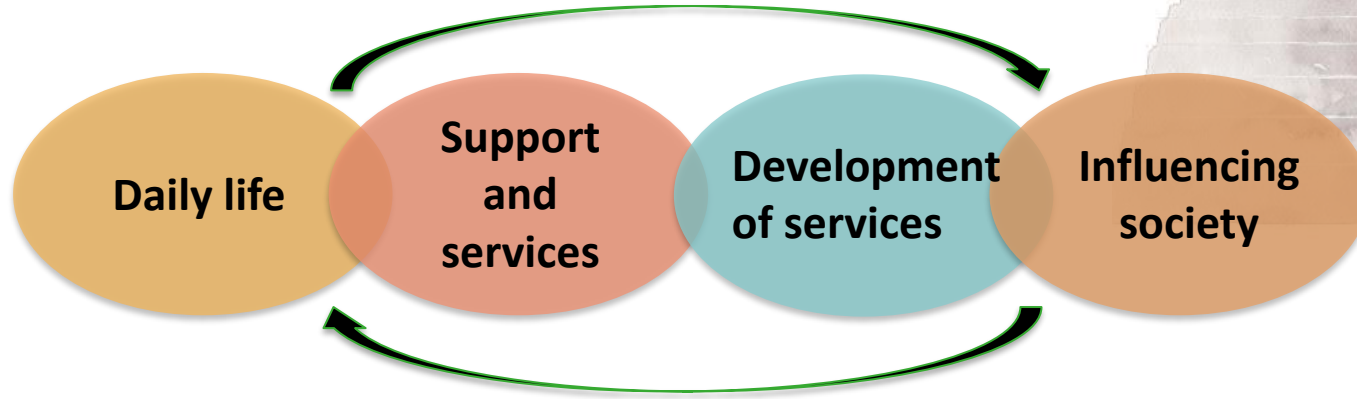


Key messages

- feeling safe and being able to get help from an adult
- basic needs (food, own bed and sleeping safely)
- The importance of play
- Missing one's own parents



Dimensions of participation



Aim is to hear children in their daily lives and environments. Participation on individual level in one's own life.

Aim is to strengthen participation in daily lives, but also give opportunities to develop services and influence society and decision makers. Participation as a citizen.

Lessons learned

- Young children can be involved in the development processes in child protection.
- They have important things to say even without words.
- The younger the child the more important the adult's facilitator role.
- There is a variation of tools and methods that can be used with children
 - You don't have to master everything alone; cooperation with artists and other professionals is helpful.



Articles in English

Maritta Törrönen, Susanna Kalliola ja Sari-Anne Paaso:

A democratic learning process: When young children under 12 years of age in child welfare services express their wishes for participation

Children & Society, 37(6), 2030-2046.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/chso.12649>

Susanna Kalliola ja Hanna Särkiö: **“Now I Feel Safer” - Involving Children Aged 3–5 in a Development Project Against Domestic Violence.**

Fokus På Familien, 52(1), 3-23.

<https://www.idunn.no/doi/10.18261/fokus.52.1.2>



Thank you!



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