

**Good practice** to promote an education free from gender stereotypes and identifying ways to implement the measures which are included in the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on gender mainstreaming in education"

**COUNTRY:** DENMARK

**GOOD PRACTICE:** CHILDREN'S BOOK AND INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

**TARGET GROUP:** CHILDREN AND PEDAGOGUES IN KINDERGARTENS

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE:**

**THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE PROJECT:**

The Danish gender equality policies and practises has amongst other targets an aim to break down;

- Gender based educational choices
- Gender segregated labour market patterns
- Gender pay gap
- Gender based restrictions for the individual

Hence promoting;

- Gender equality
- Flexibility and freedom of choice
- Use of all talents and competences

One of the methods used:

- ▶ Creating awareness between girls and boys about gendered expectations
- ▶ Making teachers aware of unconscious gender based behaviour

Allowing girls and boys a free choice

Products:

- ▶ A study for the kindergarten leaders
- ▶ A teachers guide for the pedagogues
- ▶ A children's book for the children aged 4-6

Important elements in the process:

Involvement of experts in the field, reference group with key actors, cooperation and ownership by other actors, communication plan, creating debate

9 themes in the inspirational guide:

- Objects often refer to a specific gender
- Rules can be gendered
- Behaviour in different play areas
- "Free play" is determined by gender
- Inclusion – how to include both genders
- interior design contributes to a division of gender
- gender stereotypes is prevalent everywhere
- Language can restrict girls and boys possibilities

- Storytelling – the way to new perceptions

The content of the inspirational guide:

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Concrete examples
- ▶ Reflections
- ▶ Practise / exercises

The children's book:



Content:

The book can be read both ways and is about a boy waking up in a girl's room one morning and a girl the reversed. During the day they both live the lives of the opposite sex and experience gendered expectations. In the middle/end the two children meet up in a gender neutral playground where they play together in harmony.

Lessons learned:

*Positive:*

- ▶ Practical with both a guide and a tool = children's book
- ▶ Material was well received
- ▶ Created constructive debate on gender roles in media
- ▶ It was send out nationally with a letter from the minister which made a good impression

*Negative:*

- ▶ More material was needed and more guidance – it is a difficult subject
- ▶ The guide and book got separated physically in the kindergartens – made it difficult to coordinate
- ▶ Only dedicated leaders worked with the material

**USEFUL CONTACTS: KIRA APPEL: KIAP@SM.DK**

**COMMENTS:**

The products have not been translated into English; however Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland and others have translated into them into their languages and used them in kindergartens.