

Designing and implementing a model for supporting literary practices in Finnish early childhood education and care

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QUALITY AND EQUALITY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE
European OMEP conference and assembly 2023

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1. The National Literacy Strategy and Programme (2021-)

- The aims of the National Literacy Strategy (2021) and the National Literacy Programme are to support the long-term development of literacy in Finland.
- The guidelines of the National Literacy Strategy aim at long-term and systematic national, regional and local literacy work, which will help to develop Finland into the most multiliterate country in the world by 2030.



The three main guidelines of the strategy:

1. Creating and strengthening structures for literacy work
2. Strengthening multiliteracy competence
3. Encouraging reading and diversifying literacy



The objectives of the Literary ECEC programme:

1. Supporting the pedagogical activities of early childhood education and care and
1. improving children's equal possibilities for reading and engaging with literature.



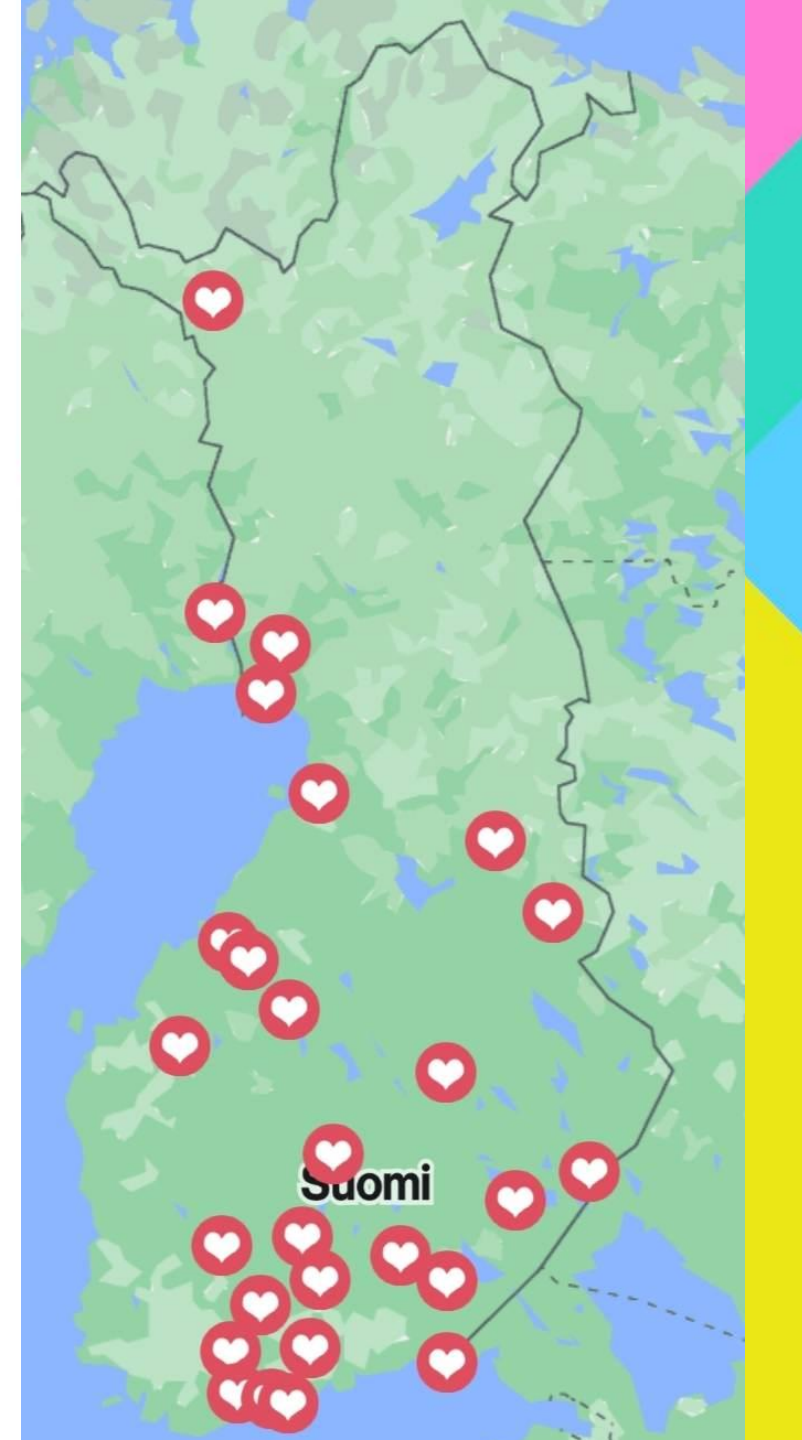
2. The Literary ECEC pilot project in Spring 2023

- There is a growing need to support children's early literary and literacy practices before school age
 - FINEEC 2023: children with an active reading hobby have significant advantage as learners during primary school.
 - The objectives of children's literary education are described in the national core curriculum for ECEC.
- The Literary ECEC programme consists of material and training that aim to give early childhood educators the necessary skills and tools for supporting young children's early literary and multiliteracy practices.
- The aim is to design a national and accessible toolkit for educators around Finland.



In January-May 2023, the Literary ECEC model is implemented as a pilot project:

- Participants: 27 ECEC units around Finland
- Materials: Howspace learning environment, Teams webinars, picture books...
- Assessment: surveys in January and May
- Preliminary results:
 - Literary and literacy practices are already part of the daily life of most ECEC units
 - The activities require reinforcement and systemic planning.



3. Designing the Literary ECEC national toolkit and model

Things to consider in the future:

- The need for print material for educators instead of digital
- Lack of resources in ECEC (i.e. personnel, time)
- Some units do not have access to public library services
- Literary and literacy activities enable combining several objectives of the national core curriculum
- Regional differences (e.g. provincial municipalities, multilingualism)
- The material needs to be published in Swedish (+ Sámi languages)



The hallway library

4. The Literary ECEC toolkit in practice: setting up a hallway library

- The Literary ECEC material focuses on different aspects of early literature education, such as co-operation with parents and libraries.
- Different tools & ideas, such as setting up a hallway library in the ECEC unit in co-operation with local library services.
- The hallway library inspires co-reading at home & makes literature more accessible for every child.



The hallway library in the Lehmuslinna daycare center



The hallway library in the Lehmuslinna daycare center



The hallway library in Lehmuslinna daycare center

I want to read the same book at home as Leo.



"Our library cut down their opening times, so parents are very glad that they can take bedtime stories with them from the kindergarten."

"We haven't read bedtime stories with our youngest child anymore but now we're practising it again."

"Do we really need to return this book?"



Thank you!

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