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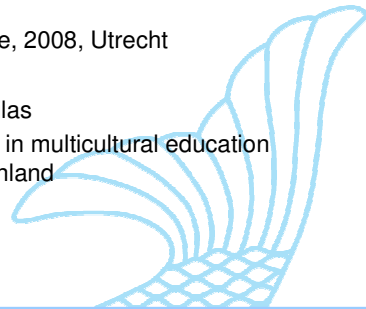
Consultee Centred Consultation Symposium

School based consultation as reflected in training programmes of school psychologists

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Consulting school psychologist in multicultural education
Vantaa, Finland



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Consultation in training programs in Finland

- Licensed psychologists (= MA in psychology) are qualified to work as school psychologists
- In MA programs there are no separate courses on consultation, but consultation is introduced as one of the working methods in different fields of psychology
- In the licentiate training for those specializing in development and education there is one (5 ECTS) compulsory course on consultation
- In further education for school psychologists (15 ETC) arranged by Psykologien Kustannus Oy (jointly owned by the Finnish Psychological Association and the Finnish Psychological Society) consultation is one of the eight main topics
- In the handbook on school psychology (Pykologina koulussa, ed. Raninen, S. & Takalo, T.) published last year one of the chapters covers the methods, process and possibilities of school based consultation



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Consultation and the work of school psychologists in Finland

- Work of school psychologist is at the same time both demanding and interesting since it covers at least to some extent many areas of psychology
 - Different working methods and practices are needed
- There are a lot of conflicting and unclear expectations on the role and work of school psychologist (working with individual students / groups / school community, students / teachers and other school personnel/parents, direct / indirect, therapy / assessment / psychological diagnostics/prevention)
- The way school psychologists work and the kind of services they are asked for depends very much on the setting they are working in and on the availability of other services.
- Work load is heavy (appr. 1000 students / school psychologist).
 - feeling of not having control of own work
 - school psychologists are more stressed than employees in average
- In average the more experienced school-psychologists are doing more consultation.



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- There is demand for developing consultation as one of the important approaches in the work of school psychologists
- It is important to be able to choose appropriate working method for each situation.
- Since consultation is a voluntary process the request for consultation needs to come from school.
- Consultation services need to be available in order for the schools to use them.
- Teachers need to have time scheduled for consultation.



To be considered

1. What is the right time for training in consultation?
2. Which is the best organization to give the training?
3. How can supervision be organized?

References:

- Ahtola, A. (2007). Koulupsykologinen työ Suomessa . Lisensiaattitutkielma. Psykologian laitos, Turun yliopisto.
- Koivisto, T. (2004). Koulupsykologien psykososiaalisen työympäristön ja työuupumuksen yhteys. Psykologian laitos, Jyväskylän yliopisto.