A process-oriented strategy for the improvement of quality in education

Well-being and involvement as our guides

Ferre Laevers and Julia Moons Centre for Experiential Education University of Leuven - Belgium

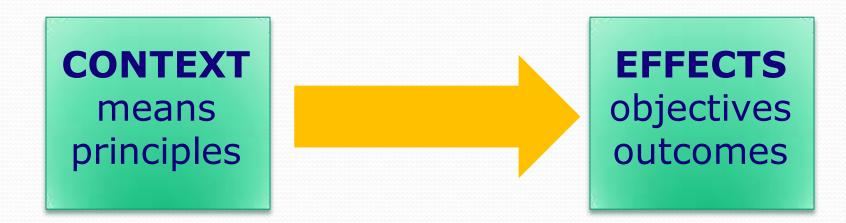
### A framework for quality

### What if...

...we could find one easy measure comparable to taking the temperature or feeling the pulse to check if we have progressed "in supporting children to flourish"?

# The process-oriented approach

### A framework for quality



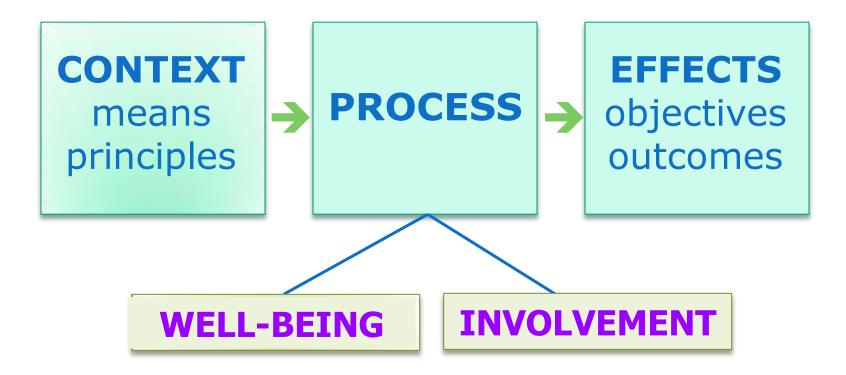
# The content & quality of the experience



### A framework for quality



### The quality of the experience



# How to define well-being?

### Well-being

### When children are...

- feel at ease
- act spontaneously
- are open to the world and accessible
- express inner rest and relaxation
- show vitality and self-confidence
- are in touch with their feelings and emotions
- enjoy life

...we know that their **mental health** is secured

### Wellbeing

### What it means

- Nothing in common with "spoiling children"
  - Signals how well basic needs are fulfilled
    - Implies an active role of the child
    - Makes children stronger, not weaker
      - The foundation for mental health

## Well-being

- Satisfaction of basic needs
  - the need for tenderness and affection
  - the need for security and clarity
  - the need for social recognition
  - the need to feel competent
  - physical needs
  - the need for meaning in life

# How to define *involvement*?

### Involvement

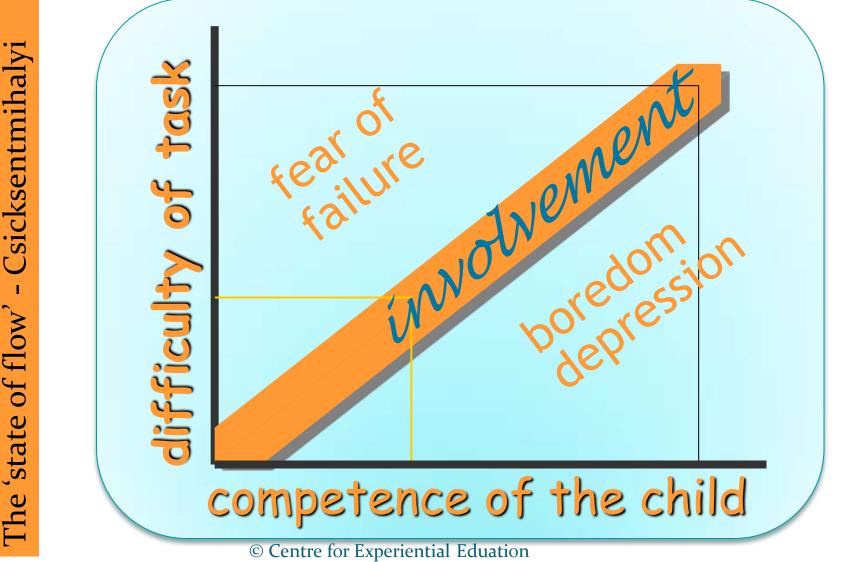
### When children are...

- concentrated and focussed
- interested, motivated, fascinated
- mentally active
- fully experiencing sensations and meanings
- enjoying the satisfaction of the exploratory drive
- operating at the very limits of their capabilities

...we know that deep level learning is taking place

# proximal development

The zone of



# The '10.000 Hour Rule' from Gladwell

- The Beatles
- Bill Gates

For excellence of hard work conduring 10 jaar

Hard work = Passion

eeds 10.000 hrs eekly 20 hrs



### What it means

 Has nothing in common with "taking away any kind of effort" (more than fun)

 An easy measure for the power of the learning environment

• Relevant for all children at any age

• A necessary condition for deep-level-learning

### THE LEUVEN INVOLVEMENT SCALE

### 5 levels

>1 No activity
>2 Interrupted activity
>3 Activity without intensity
>4 Activity with intense moments
>5 Continuous intense activity

# in-service training

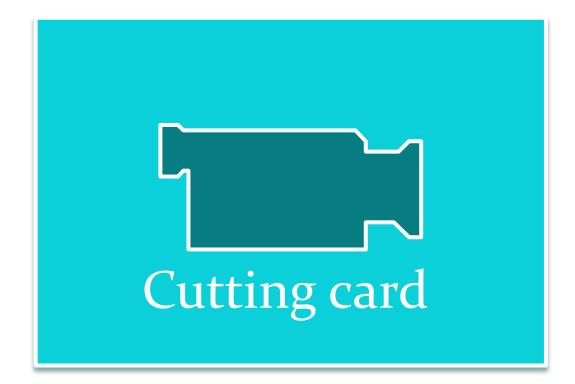
The scale for

>1 Very boring – I stayed because it was impossible to leave

>3 I heard it all, but nothing really caught my attention

>5 I'm impressed by fascinating thoughts that carry me away

### Involvement



SOURCE: DVD Observing Involvement in childrenfrom o to 6 © Centre for Experiential Eduation



#### **Observing Involvement** in Children From Birth to 6 Years





### Observing Involvement

in children from 6 to 12 years

#### A training pack [DVD + Manual]

Authors: dr. Ferre Laevers, Bart Declercq, Colleen Marin, Julia Moons & Frankie Stanton

#### Content:

One of the key indicators of quality in education is the level of engagement of children. This 'intrinsically motivated intense mental activity' or involvement can be regarded as a direct measure of the 'power of the learning environment we provide'.

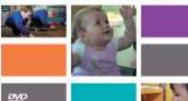
This training pack consists of 24 clips video-taped in a variety of early years settings in the U.K. (Kent). It is designed for practitioners, advisers and researchers to become confident and reliable observers of the levels of involvement in children between 0 to 6 years of age. These levels provide a solid ground to identify where, when, how and for which children the quality of our approach can be improved.

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#### Primary Education





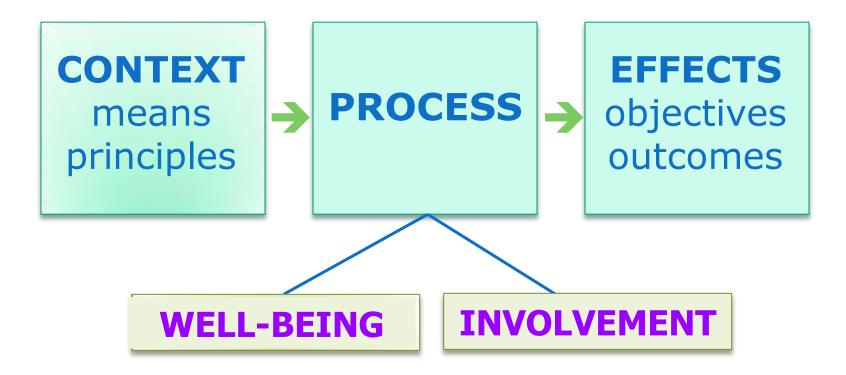




#### EARLY YEARCEntre for Experier al Education

# How are they doing? Identifying children at risk.

### The process-indicators of quality



# Screening 'well-being'

### Levels 1 and 5

Children with a very low level of well-being are clearly having a difficult time.	Children with a very high level of well-being in the setting feel like 'fish in water'.
• They don't feel happy in the setting.	• They have a lot of fun, laugh a lot, they
	radiate.
or even non-existent.	<ul> <li>They enjoy what the environment has</li> </ul>
• They mostly seem anxious or tense or	to offer and the other's company.
show hardly any vitality.	<ul> <li>When they feel unhappy, angry or</li> </ul>
• Contacts with their environment tend	frightened, they manage to get over
to be difficult.	it fairly quickly.
• They are either in conflict with others,	• Most of the time they feel very happy:
or they avoid contact.	they enjoy life to the full.
They don't feel at ease in most	• Their actions affect others and the
situations.	group climate in a positive way.

Source: Process Oriented Monitoring System [POMS]

# Screening 'involvement'

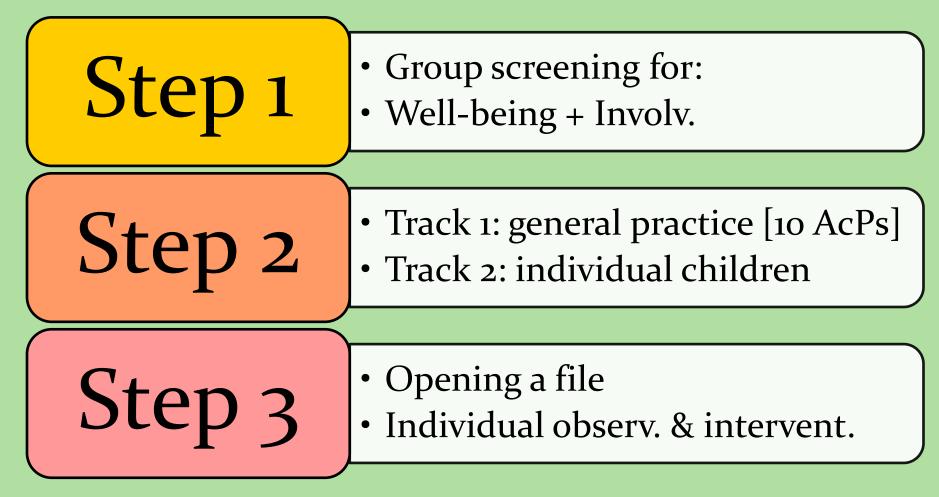
### Levels 1 and 5

Children with a very low level of	Children with a very high level of
involvement often do not engage in	well-being in the setting feel like
any activity at all.	'fishin water'.
<ul> <li>They wander around, appear absent- minded and tend to stare aimlessly.</li> <li>When any activity occurs it is often short-lived or purposeless.</li> <li>They are easily distracted by surrounding noises, voices, movements</li> <li>There is little mental activity: they don't seem to take anything in.</li> <li>They often act without any effort or dedication.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>They have a lot of fun, laugh a lot, they radiate.</li> <li>They enjoy what the environment has to offer and the other's company.</li> <li>When they feel unhappy, angry or frightened, they manage to get over it fairly quickly.</li> <li>Most of the time they feel very happy: they enjoy life to the full.</li> <li>Their actions affect others and the group climate in a positive way.</li> </ul>

Source: Process Oriented Monitoring System [POMS]

# POMS

**PROCESS ORIENTED CHILD MONITORING SYSTEM** 



PROCESS ORIENTED CHILD MONITORING SYSTEM

Step 1 : Group screening for well-being and involvement

Group: 23 five year olds

Date: October

NAMES	W	ELL-	BEI	ING	INV	VOLV	ΈM	ENT	COMMENTS					
Abrachim	2	I	м	H	2	I	м	Ĥ						
Tom	?	L	М	Н	?	) L	М	Н						
Ben	?	L(	M	Н	?	L (	M	Н						
Olivier	?	L	М	$(\mathbf{H})$	?	L	М	H						
Daan	?	L	М	H	?	L	М	H						
Raf	?	L	М	(H)	?	L	М	(н)						
Jasper	?	L	М	H	?	L	M	H						
Sebastiaan	?	L	М	(H)	?	L (	M	Н						
Ward (	$\bigcirc$	L	M	Н	?	L	M	Н						
Ruben	?	L (	M	H	?	L (	M	H						
Joris Stefaan	?	L	M M	H	?	L	M M	(H) H						
Frederik	?		M	н	?	) L	M	н						
Jelle	?	(L) L	M	H	?	) L L	M	H						
Kaat (	· ?)	L	M	Н	· ?	L (	M	н						
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Els	?	L	М	(H)	?	L	М	(H)						
Leen	?	L	М	(H)	?	L	М	(H)						
Sara	?	L	М	(H)	?	L	М	(H)						
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### PROCESS ORIENTED CHILD MONITORING System

Step 1 : Group screening for well-being and involvement

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### PROCESS ORIENTED CHILD MONITORING SYSTEM [POMS]

**EVOLUTION OF 5 CHILDREN:** 

OCTOBER → FEBRUARY

	Ostahan				<b>E</b> ebauaa	
	October				Februar	<u>Y</u>
WELL-BEING	INVOLVEMENT	CODE	NAMES	CODE	WELL-BEING	INVOLVEMENT
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? [] M H	? L M H		MIES		1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

### PROCESS ORIENTED CHILD MONITORING SYSTEM [POMS]

**EVOLUTION OF 5 CHILDREN:** 

#### OCTOBER → FEBRUARY

October							February																
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#### Grou: 22 five year olds

Date: May

NA	MEN	WELBEVINDEN BETROKKENHEID TOELICHTING
	Abrachim	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
	Гom	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
	Ben	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
	Olivier	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
	Daan	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
F	Raf	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
J	Tasper	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
<b>—</b> e	5ebastiaan	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
l v	Vard	? 1 (2)3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 (4) 5
F	Ruben	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
J	Toris	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
<u> </u>	Stefaan	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
F	Frederik	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
J	Telle	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
	Kaat	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
I	Ike	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
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e	Sara	? 1 2 3 4 (5)? 1 2 3 4 (5)
	Narijke	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
	Eline	? 1 2 3 4 5 ? 1 2 3 4 5
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A Process-Oriented Monitoring System For Early Years

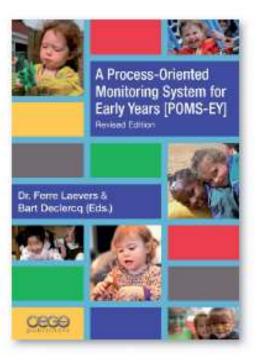


Revised Edition Including 8 Developmental Domains

Authors: dr. Ferre Laevers & Bart Declercq [Eds.]

#### Content:

A guide covering 3 stages, from group screening to interventions, with 8 forms to support the process, case studies and suggestions for actions. This system focuses on the major indications for quality: well-being and involvement, Children are screened using a 5-point scale for both dimensions. For those who fall below level 4 practitioners are guided to more advanced observations. This approach gives a sense of purpose and efficacy: you get immediate feedback and can get to action without delay. Screening of the group four times a year has not only proven to be practicable but also most effective to raise levels of well-being and involvement in all children and improve achievements.



POMS **PROCESS** ORIENTED **CHILD MONITORING System New Edition** 

ISBN 978-90-74798-63-1

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# The outcome of education

# Quality at the level of the output



- Emotional health / self-esteem �
  - Exploratory drive **\***
  - Competencies & life skills \*
- The basic attitude of linkedness \*

## Deep-level-learning

### **Developmental domains**

- Gross motor development
- Fine motor development
- Expression through arts
- Expression through language
- Understanding the world of objects
  - Including technology
- Understanding the world of people
  - Including social competence
- Logical mathematical competence
- Self-organisation & entrepreneurship

The new paradigm: 'competency based learning'

- The output of education questioned
- Competencies are life-skills
  - Not the learning is the point, but how to use it
- Competencies are complex entities
  - Integrate skills, insights, attitudes, praxis

### **Gross motor development** [Level 5]

Shows excellent physical skills for his/her age, demonstrated in a broad range of situations where movement is required. It is a pleasure observing his/her movements in space: supple and graceful, purposeful and with efficacy, in an adjusted pace, rhythmical, readily reacting to changes and signals. Picks up new patterns of movement very easily.

© c. [Processioniented Child Monitoring System]

### The concept of 'deep-level-learning'

### An holistic approach

- far from a checklist of isolated skills
- grasping the essence
- covering all age levels

#### **Fine motor development** [Level 5]

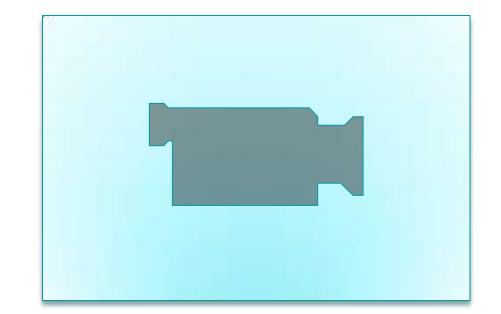
Is very skilful in handling objects and tools: is able to perform complex operations fluently and with precision. Masters a broad range of manipulations. Has an excellent co-ordination of hand and fingers, detached from the rest of the body. Easily picks up new patterns of movement. [Process-oriented child monitoring system]



## Deep-level-learning

#### **Developmental domains**

- Gross motor development
- Fine motor development
- Expression through arts
- Expression through language
- Understanding the world of objects
  - Including technology
- Understanding the world of people
  - Including social competence
- Logical mathematical competence
- Self-organisation & entrepreneurship



Kazoo players

## Deep-level-learning

#### **Developmental domains**

- Gross motor development
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- Understanding the world of people
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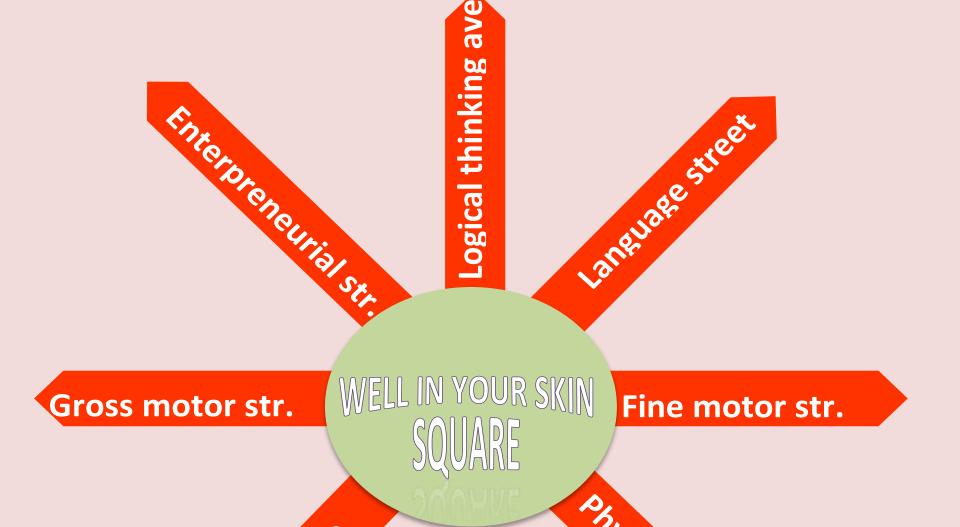
# Self-organization & entrepreneurship

Is able to manage him/herself well: knows what (s)he wants, can set goals, can engage into action without delay and achieve a good result. Does not give up at the first obstacle and can persist. Can step back and work strategically. Is able to exploit various possibilities and adapt to changing circumstances. Is not ruled by the surroundings, but actively determines the group's course together with others.

> [Process-oriented child monitoring system] © Centre for Experiential Eduation

### The new paradigm on competencies

- An holistic approach
  - far from a checklist of isolated skills
  - grasping the essence
  - covering all age levels
  - speaks to the imagination
  - gives a sense of direction
  - a source of inspiration for the creation of a powerful learning environment



#### Every developmental domain represented in a powerful way for every and each child





# Involvement: the foundation for imagination

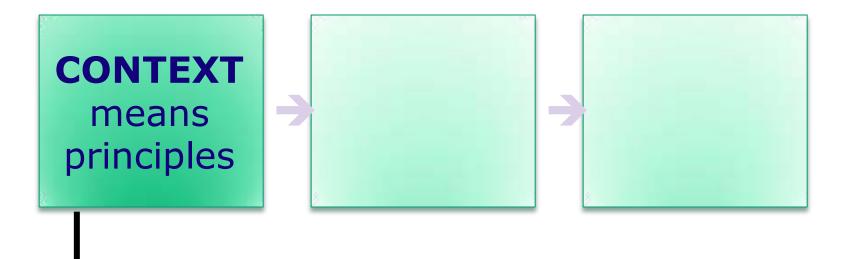
Stage 2: imagination Stage vs. the LOI-syndrom representation at the mental level

Stage 1 intense mental activity

Involvement: activation of the exploratory drive

# Implications for practice

# Quality at the level of the context



ingredients of a powerful learning environment



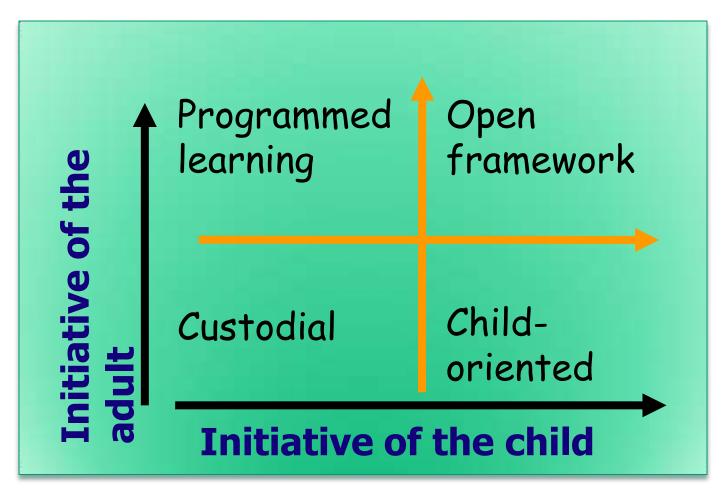
 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$  Centre for Experiential Eduation

## The 10 Action Points

Create a rich environment 1-2-3 Offer activities based on observed interest 4 5 Stimulate activities with open impulses Give room for child initiative 6 Build up positive relations Explore the world of feelings, 8 behaviour & values Support children with special needs 9-10

# The role of the adult: how much and what?

## The 'open framework' approach



### The 'open framework' approach

- An observation
- A circular process
  - Who is programming who?
  - Who is learning most?
- The emergent curriculum
- How to get it in place?
  - Room for initiative in the organization [AP6]
  - Teacher Style: stimulating interventions [AP5]
  - Offer of activities meeting interests [AP4]

# The role of communication & group climate

### Group climate : level 5

- The atmosphere is relaxed, cheerful, cosy
- Most of the children take pleasure in what they do
- Children and teacher have a lively and content expression on their faces
- Children dare to experiment, to give answers, to take initiative and to make mistakes
- Children are spontaneous: they ask questions, express what they feel and think
- There is a natural, unforced quietness when required
- Humor is never far away: children and adult have fun telling jokes or phantasizing

#### Working around emotions

"... After having worked for only seven weeks (-) already we've seen a big, significant difference. (-) It's certain, we can sense a general feeling of protectiveness, awareness, friendship and empathy in the children, which wasn't there before."

> Nanette Smith, on the BBC-series "Teaching Today"



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# PHASE 1

# INTRODUCING THE BASIC FEELINGS

# PHASE 2

# RECOGNISING THE BASIC FEELINGS

# PHASE 3 EXPRESSING OWN FEELINGS

# How to monitor quality?

#### Observation, reflection and action

#### WELL-BEING & INVOLVEMENT

#### SCREENING

Scores based on observations over the past few weeks SCANNING Scores based on 2 minutes of observation per child per round

# The POMS: screening of well-being & involvement



A Process-Oriented Monitoring System For Early Years

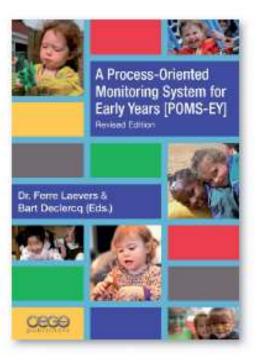


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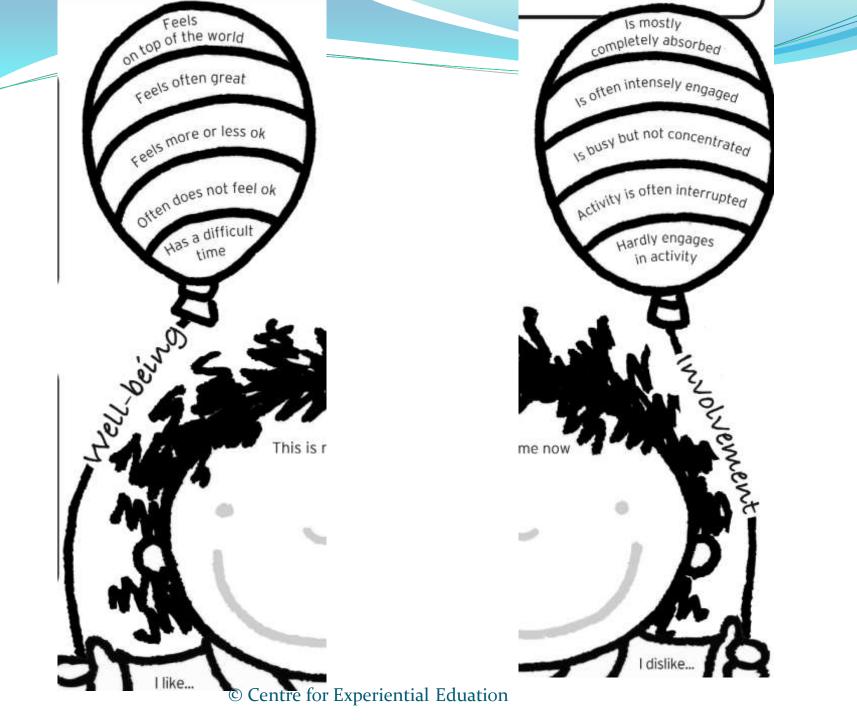
#### Working with parents: MyProfile © Centre for Experiential Eduation

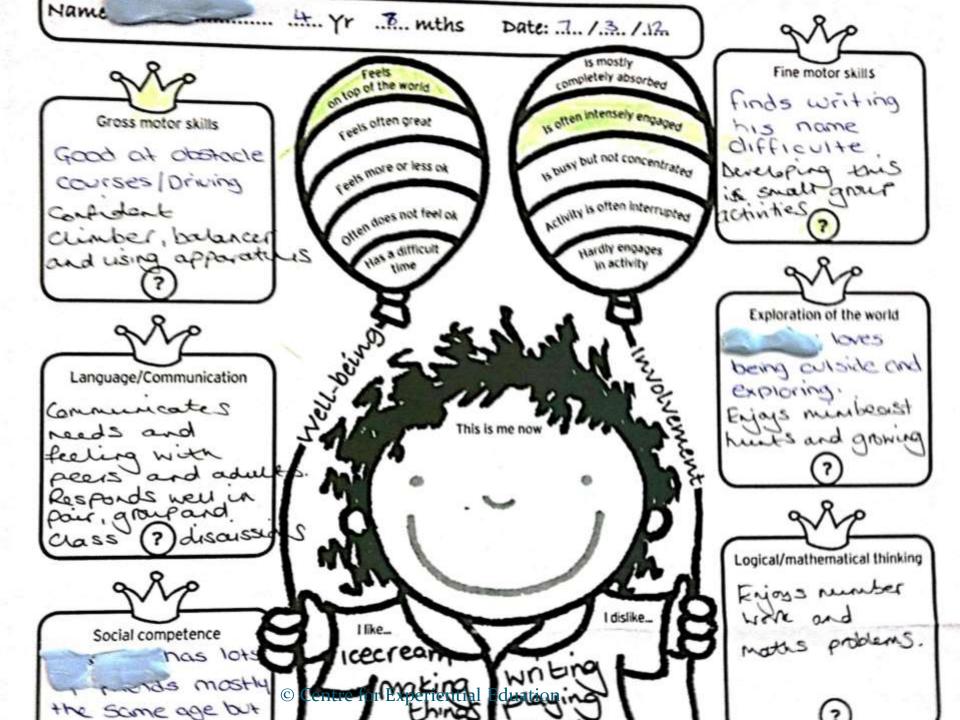


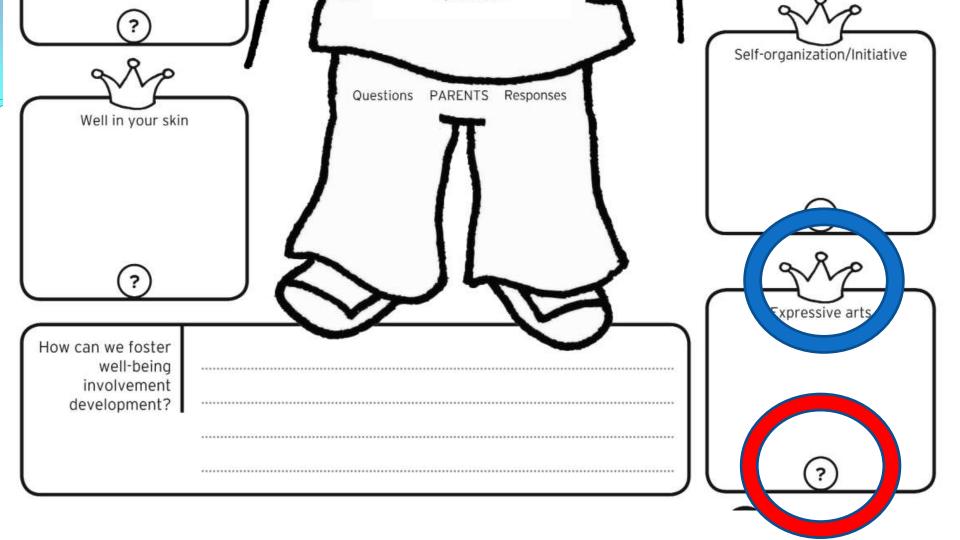
# MyProfile

Sharing observations with parents in the early years

MyPortrait - ONLY FOR USE WITHIN PILOT STUDIES AUTHORISED BY CO CONTRE FOR PERIOD







### **MyProfile** Sharing observations with parents in the early years

# The SiCs: scanning of wellbeing and involvement

#### STEP 1: OBSERVATION SCHEDULE (SCANNING OF WELL-BEING AND INVOLVEMENT)

SiCs Form A

GROUP:	NUMBER OF CHILDREN:		NUMBER OF SUPERVISORS		DATE: FROMTO	
NAME CHILD	OBSERVATION	WELL-BEING	NAME CHILD	OBSERVATION	WELL-BEING/ INVOLVEMENT	
3			6			
2			7			
3			8			
4			9			
5	© Centre fo	Or Experientia	10 Eduation			

#### process-oriented Self-evaluation Instrument for Care Settings (Sics)

#### OBSERVATION SCHEME

#### [SCANNING]

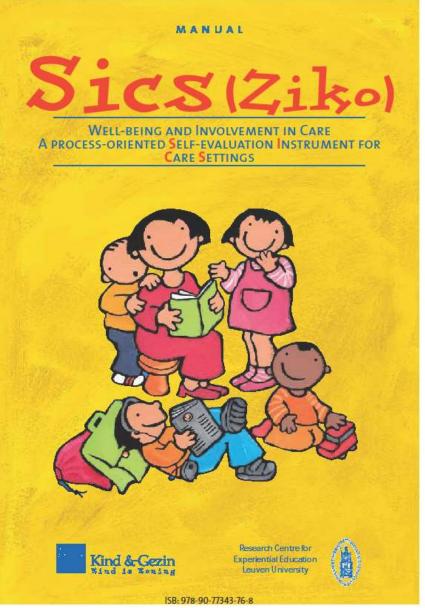
groep: De Bengeltjes (18-36 maand) aantal kinderen: 14				AANTAL BEGELEIDERS: 2 DATUM: 08/11/2006 van Gu10 tot Gu45				
NAAM KIND		OBSERVATIE	WELBEVINDEN BETROKKENHEID	NAAM KIND		OBSERVATIE	WELBEVINDEN/ BETROKKENHEID	
1	Aster	Levendig, tatevend, onderzoekt fototoestel. Genietend, stralende mimiek, geregeld afgeleid	(4) (3) WB BT	6	Korneel	Bike: chasing R shouts hello/smiles/waves to adlt/full of energy/beams	5 5 WB BT	
2	Jens	Tvekt zich vecht, kijkt op, neemt blokje. Telefoneevt, verwoordt. Zoekt contact met bgl. Tevug naar blokje. Opgeslovpt.		7	Fien	Op mat, neemt boekje. Wvijft in ogen. Bladevt. Opkijken, bladeven, afgeleid. Mimiek is neutvaal.	(3) (2) WB BT	
3	Lowyck	Staart, bladert afwezig in boekje. Neutrale mimiek. Geeuwt. Staart. Weinig spel.	(3) (2) WB BT	8	Seppe	Geconcentreerd. Stalt groenten uit. Wast ze, droogt ze af. Roert in potje. Ernstige, geconcentreerde blik.	(4) (5) WB BT	
4	Bouwe	Naar keuken — levendig. Fantasiespel met potjes en fruit. Lachen, tateren. Merkt observator niet op.	5 WB BT	9	Sam	Spel met bgl. Telkens opnieum deksel geven. Kijkt op als andere bgl foto neemt. Glimlacht. Ontspannen.	$(4) (3^+) (3^+) (BT) (3^+) ($	
5	Kato	Dolls area: crying fiercefully – rubs eyes – no activity	(1) (1) WB BT	10	Martin	Øraait mechanisch aan wieltjes van poppenwagen. Staart in ruimte. Ander kind valt over zijn benen. Geen reactie. Mimiek wat gespannen.	$ \begin{array}{c} (\mathcal{Z}^+) & (1) \\ WB & BT \end{array} $	



Source SICS

Free download at cegopublishers.be<sup>Centre for Experiential Eduation</sup>





# cego.be

# 4,5 [Based on 50 groups, 1400 children from 0 to 5 yr old]



# Evolution at group level

#### ⇒ variation in well-being

	<2.76	2.76 - 3,25	3,26 -3,50	3,51 - 4.00	4,0 - 4,50	4.50 en meer
M 1	72	<b>2%</b> 3	7 groepen	28%	<b>6</b> 14 gro	oepen
M 2	48	<b>3%</b> 2	4 groepen	52%	<b>6</b> 26 gr	oepen
М 3	34	<b>1%</b> 10	6 groepen		<b>%</b> 30 gr	oepen

### Effecten op groepsniveau

#### ⇒ variatie in betrokkenheid

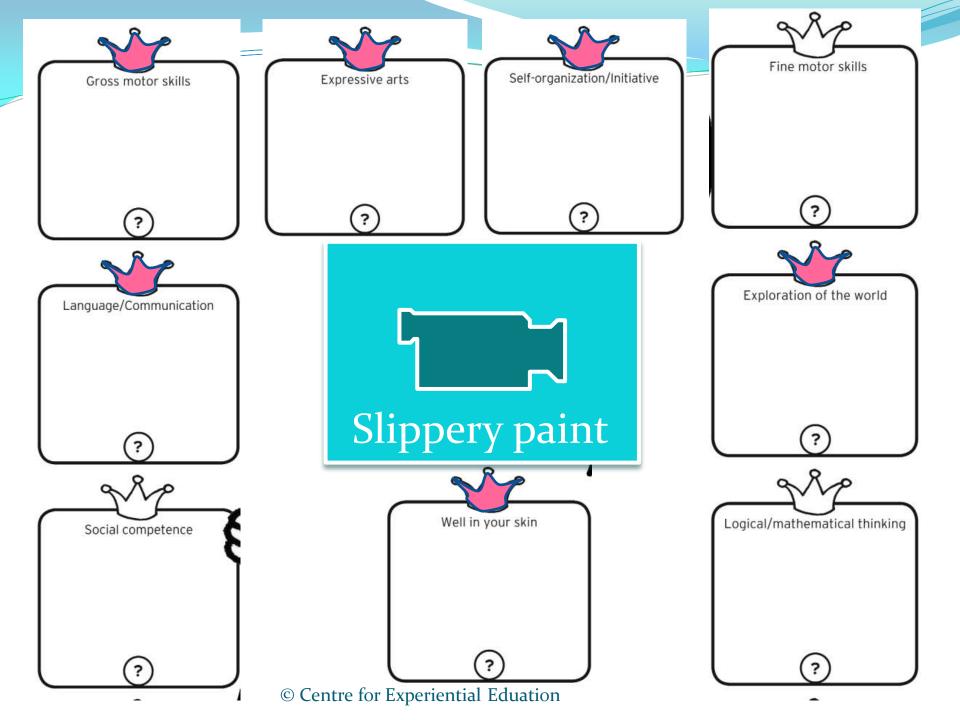
	<3.00	3.00 - 3,25	3,26 -3,50	3,51 – 3.75	3.76 - 3.99	4.00 en meer
М 1	97	7% 4	9 groepen	3%	O 2 groe	pen
M 2	72	<b>2%</b> 3(	6 groepen	28%	<b>6</b> 14 gro	oepen
М З	37		7 groepen		<b>%</b> 29 gr	oepen



# Yes, we can make a difference!

## How to get there?

find a consensus around the criteria 'wellbeing' and 'involvement' ⇒ start where you are and accept the limitations ⇒ select a relevant field of action ⇒ take initiatives that are promising ⇒ reflect: why did it work/why not? Share your experiences with others



## Information and order: cego@ppw.kuleuven.be

#### **Relevant Experiential Education Publications:**

- A process-oriented monitoring system for early years [POMS] (manual) ISBN 978-90-74798-63-1 [Revised edition]
- Observing Involvement in Children from Birth to 6 years (manual + DVD) ISBN 978-90-78765-98-1
- Observing Involvement in Children from 6 to 12 years (manual + DVD) ISBN 978-90-78765-65-3 MyPortrait (manual and portfolio-form)
- Kutija puna osjecaja (A Box full of Feelings) [order Croatian version at Golden Marketing]

# Kutija puna osjećaja

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Zašto je važno da djeca već u vrtiću uče o osjećajima?

U odgojnoj skupini često dolazi do konflikata praćenih snažnim neugodnim osjećajima. Djeca ne znaju riječima izraziti što osjećaju pa zato viču, plaču, guraju se ili međusobno udaraju. Kutija puna osjećaja pomaže djeci da svoje osjećaje izraze riječima, da ih opišu i upoznaju.

Dr. Marina Kog

Kome je Kutija namijenjena?

Praktično iskustvo pokazuje da je Kutija privlačna djeci različite dobi. S njome se mogu postupno upoznati čak i djeca od dvije i pol

> ili tri godine. lako je Kutija puna osjećaja osmišljena (i iskušana) za djecu od druge do sedme godine života, ona pruža mogućnost za razgovor i igre emocijama i u mnogim drugim prigodama:

> > s djecom jasličke dobi
> >  i malo starijom djecom;
> >  s djecom od četvrte
> >  do osme godine života;
> >  s djecom u posebnim odgojno-obrazovnim



Kutija je također pogodna za rad s odraslim osobama s posebnim potrebama, uz neke izmjene u situacijski pričama. Uz Kutiju punu osjećaja možete se poslužiti i preporučenim slikovnicama nakladničke kuće Golden Tehnička knjiga, koje će vam pomoći u obradi pojedinih osjećaja.

Za narudžbu, obratite se na adresu:

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Golden marketing - Tehnička knjiga, A. Šenoe 28, Zagreb tel: 01 4839567 i fax: 01 4839670

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