



Documentation

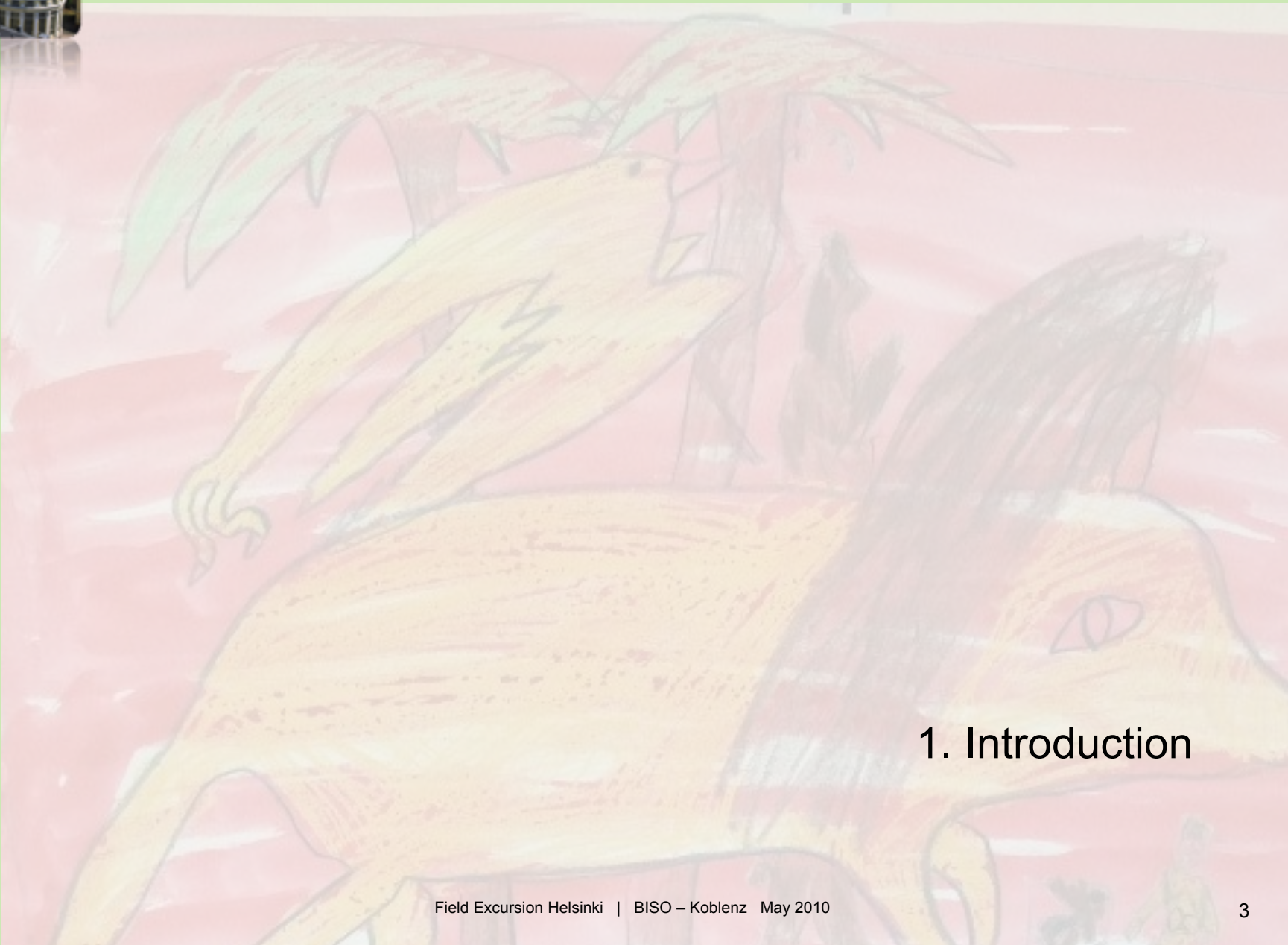
Field Excursion Helsinki | BISO – Koblenz May 2010



Agenda



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1. Introduction



1. Introduction

First impressions

The peaceful and calm atmosphere in the city and the kindness of the people were such a positive impression - something to remember





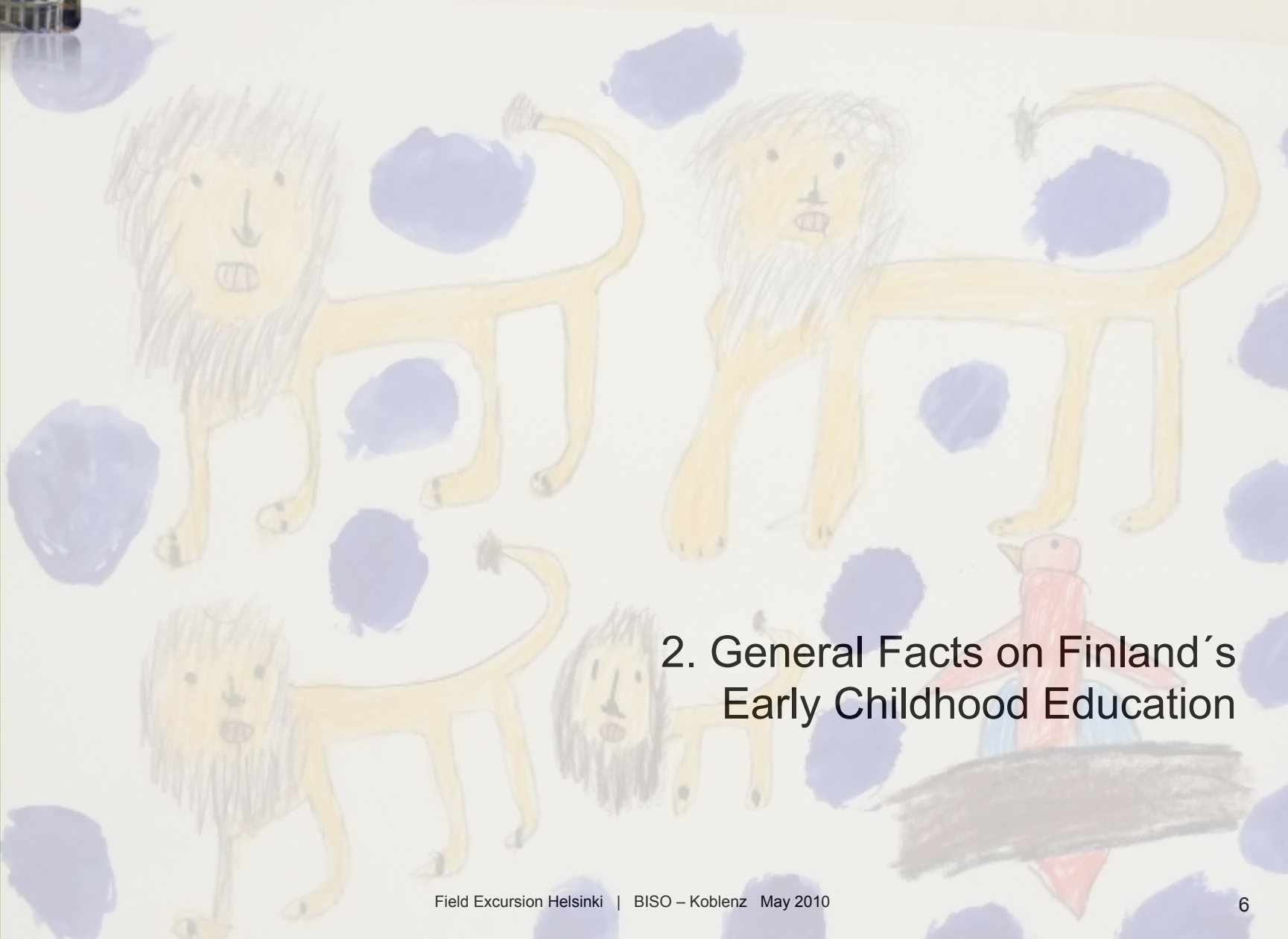
1. Introduction

23 students and their professor of the course of studies BISO went to Finland in May 2010 on a field excursion.

They visited Helsinki, the Capitol of Finland to get first hand knowlege of Finnish Early Childhood Education.

558.457 inhabitants make Helsinki the largest city in Finland.





2. General Facts on Finland's Early Childhood Education



2.1 Unconditional Right to Day Care for all Children

Following information were given to us by Pasi Brandt, manager of the Social Services Department.

Families may choose between municipal childcare, home care support for children younger than three years or private day care support for children younger than six years.

Families may choose day care options between full-time (5 hours per day) and part-time or evening, as well as weekend and around the clock (24hrs).

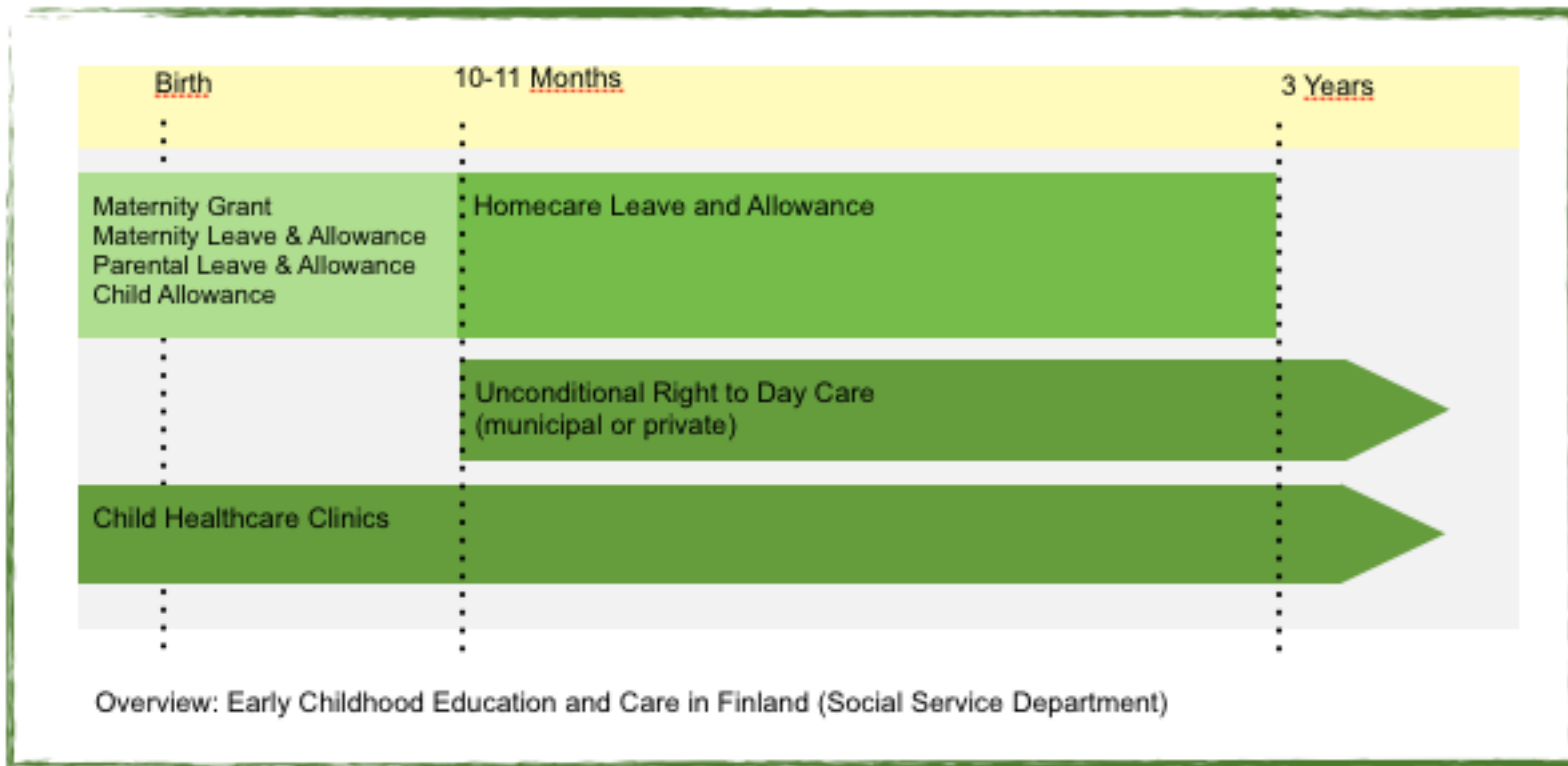
Fees are income related to a maximum of 233€ per month.

Families get allowances, either National Allowance or Helsinki Supplement. Both are also income related.



2.1 Unconditional Right to Day Care for all Children

Overview





2.2 Ratio of Staff to Children

The number of children who can be cared for at day care centers is based on the ratio of staff to children.

In full day care one member of staff per

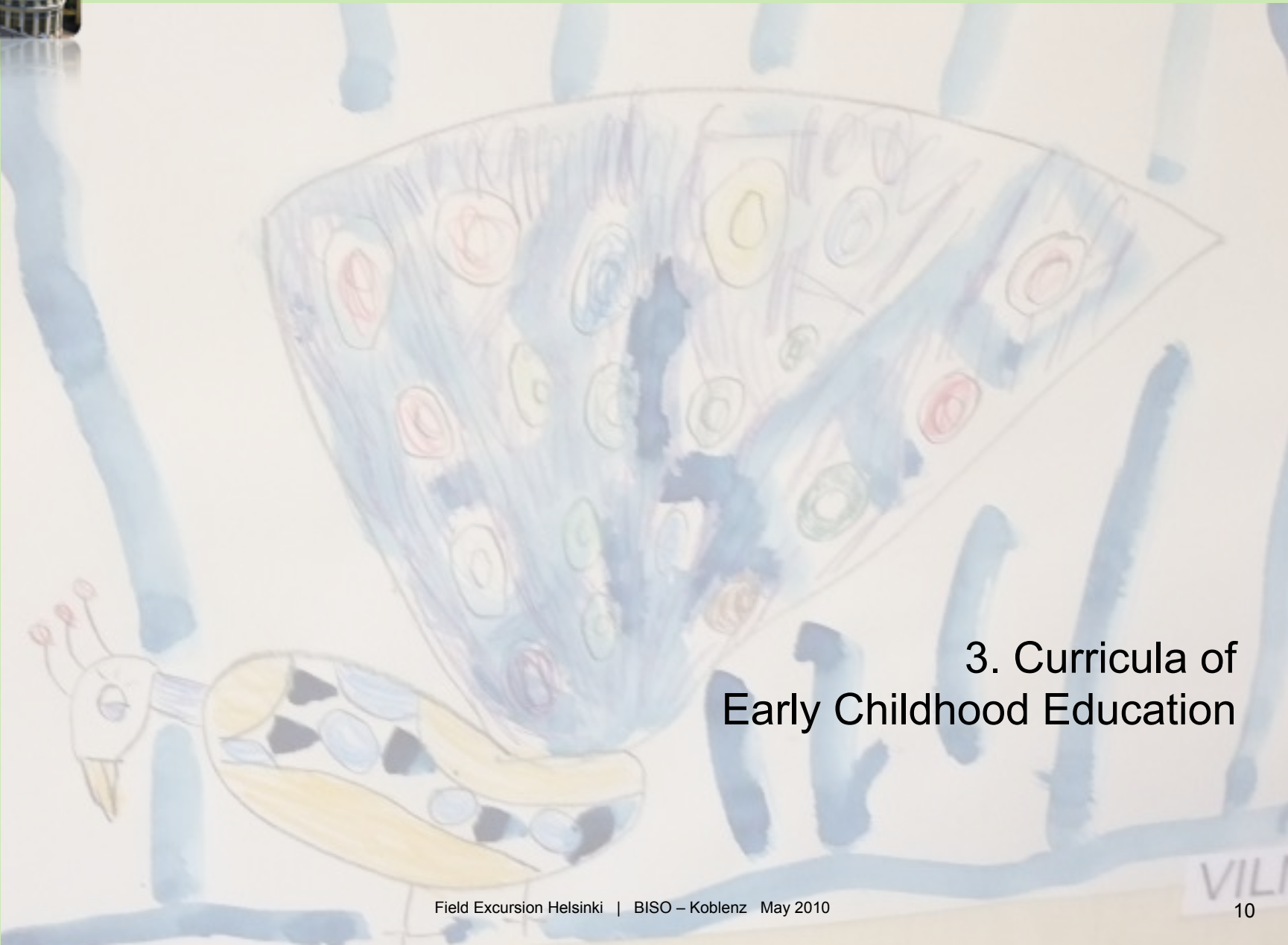
- ▶ 7 children older than 3 years of age
- ▶ 4 children younger than 3 years of age
- ▶ 2 children younger than 1 year of age (Helsinki's own application)

In part day care one member of staff per

- ▶ 13 children 3 years and more

In pre-school one member of staff per

- ▶ 13 children 6 year



3. Curricula of Early Childhood Education



3.1 Basic Mission and Goals

The well-being of children is the basic proposition of our work. We have encapsulated it in our vision: „*It is cool to be a kid in this city*“. This vision conveys the idea, that the most important thing in our early education work is the enjoyment that children experience in being children when growing up in Helsinki.

As we aim for a good educational environment for our children it is important to understand the educational partnership involved in early education and the multi-professionalism of child education.

In 2005 Finland established a National Core Curriculum for early education. In 2000 a National Core Curriculum for pre-school education was developed.

There are two special curricula for Helsinki: pre-school curriculum (2005) and early childhood (2007). These include an early education plan and a pre-school learning plan individualised for each child.



3.1 Basic Mission and Goals



Education - Care - Teaching

- ▶ well-being of the child
- ▶ pedagogy: education, care and teaching as a whole
- ▶ fostering what is meaningful for and characteristic of children: play
- ▶ importance of early childhood education environment
- ▶ the team of educators - multi-professional communities
- ▶ educational partnership: participation and empowerment of families
- ▶ inclusive provision of special needs





3.1 Basic Mission and Goals

Play and Learning Environment

- ▶ Play is a natural part of a child's everyday life. Play is necessary to the development of a child's personality
- ▶ Pre-school gives children space to be spontaneous and for playing.
- ▶ A good learning environment provides opportunities and challenges for various activities and accommodates differences in individual learning
- ▶ Atmosphere and interaction are an essential part of any learning environment
- ▶ Helsinki offers opportunities for children to visit various environments



3.2 Pre-School Education



In Helsinki pre-school groups for children that are 6 years old are mainly held at day care centers, i.e. one year before primary education.

The pre-school program curriculum includes

- ▶ language and interaction
- ▶ maths
- ▶ ethics and outlook on life
- ▶ environmental and national sciences
- ▶ health
- ▶ development of physical and motor functions
- ▶ arts and culture





4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori



4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori

On the trip we were invited to municipal day care centers. One part of the group visited the day care center „ Sinivuori“. There we had the chance to enjoy day care life in Finland. (See pictures below)





4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori

Ms. Arja Juvonnen-Heikkiä, the headmaster of the day care centre, and Mr. Jerkka laakonen offered a warm welcome to us.

First we had the chance to see a video presentation about early childhood education in Finland. Afterwards we joined a presentation of pedagogical ideas and methods at Sinivuori.

There are 75 children of the neighborhood who are visiting the day care centre Sinivuori. There are 3 groups, with 21 children each, in the age of 3 to 6 years and one group with children in the age of 11 month to 3 years.



4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori



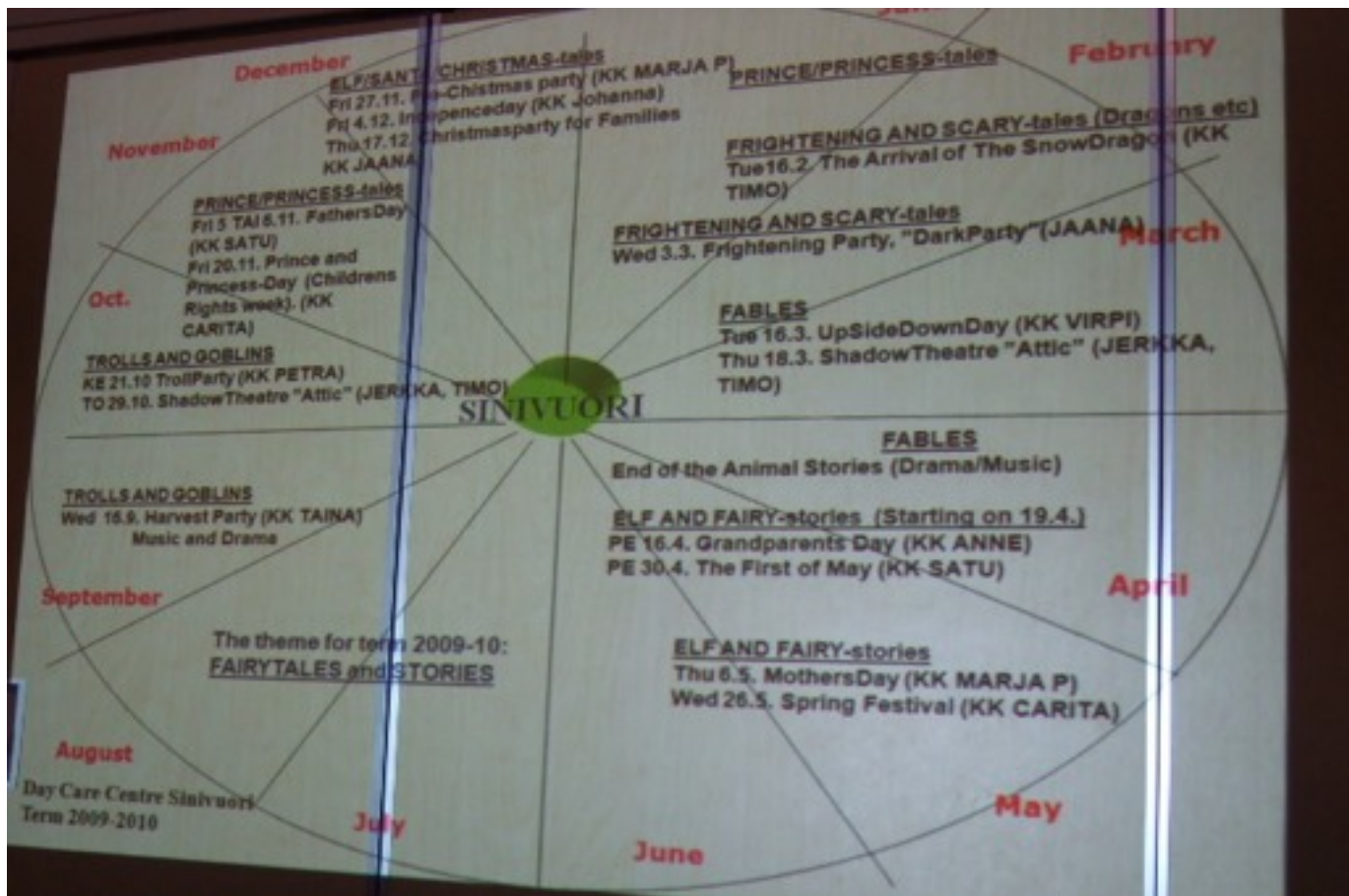
Some impressions of Sinivuori





4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori

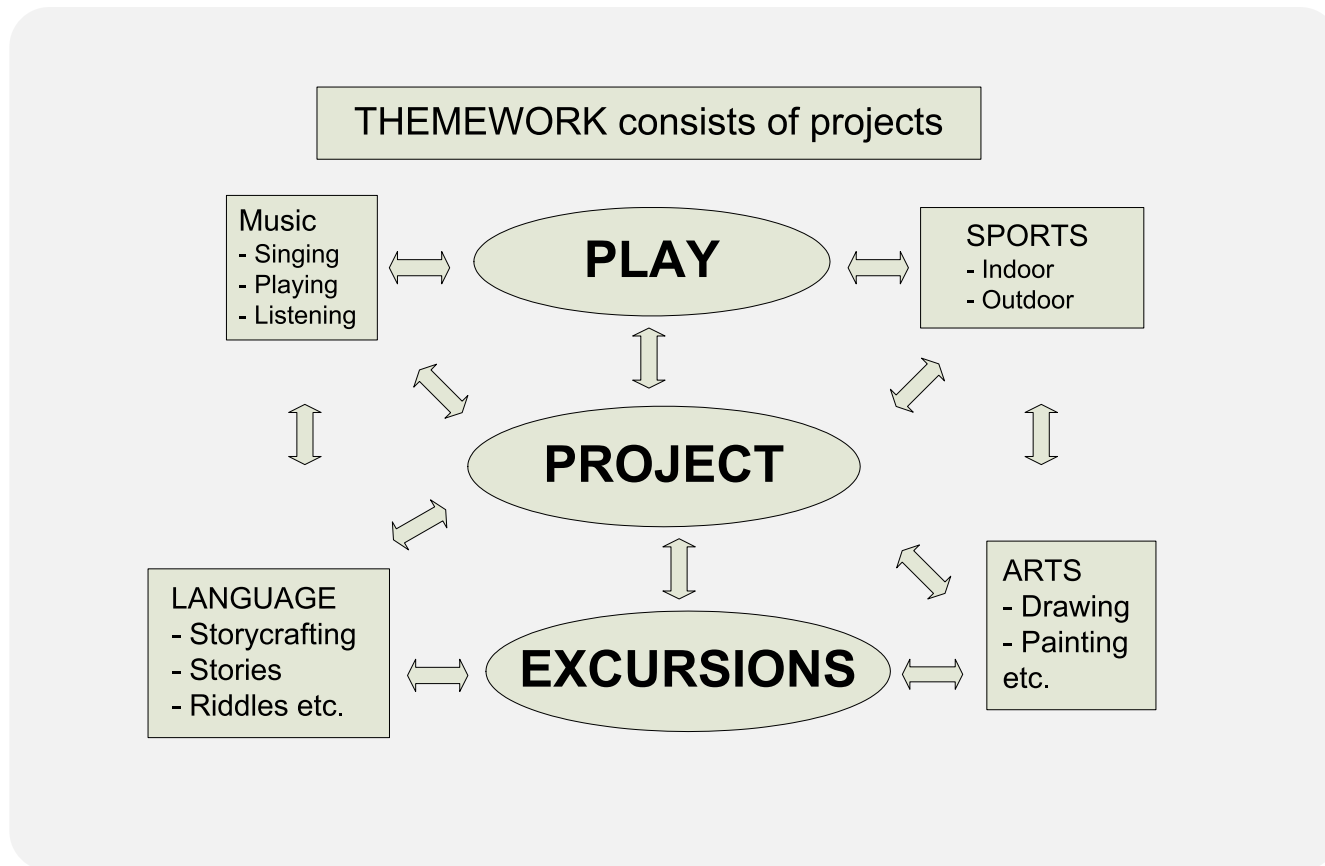
One year in day care at Sinivuori





4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori

An Idea of Sinivuori Themework





4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori

An Idea of Sinivuori's „Play“

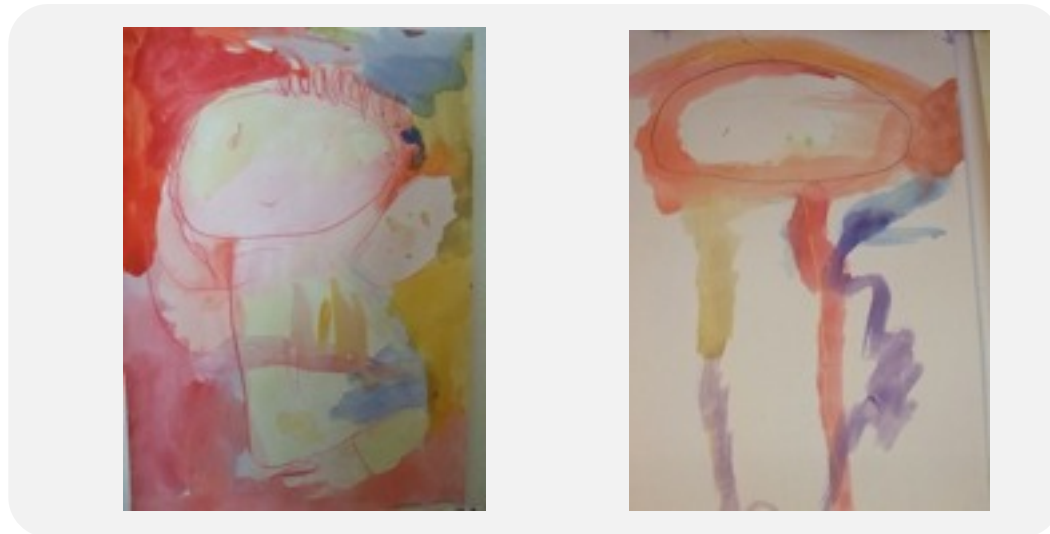




4. Day Care Centre Sinivuori

Sinivuori's idea of documentation:

- ▶ Our everyday activities and meaning of play visible for parents.
- ▶ Collecting childrens day care history in pictures, drawings and written reports of events to follow child's growth development and learning.
- ▶ Documentation is valuable material for sharing meanings and experiences between children, groups and staff.





5. Day Care Centre Ruholahden lastentalo



5. Day Care Centre Ruholahden lastentalo

Mr. Seppo Rantanen presented the day care center to second part of our group. Founded in 1996 the center is known for its focus on childrens' paintings. All over the house you can find various colorful pictures that symbolize the work and attitude of educators and management of Ruholahden lastentalo.





5. Day Care Centre Ruholahden lastentalo

Some impressions of Ruholahden lastentalo





Our Team



Our team consisted of 23 students. Some of them you can find on this picture.

*We had a great
time in Finland.*

Thank you !