

Report of the visited institution in week 36.

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Institution: Adelgården Integreerede Institution

The institution I visited is located close to Frederikssund, Denmark. What you see when you enter the ground of the institution is a lot of space to play, a big stable and a little building with a kitchen, sanitary facilities and two rooms to eat, read or play some board-games. The big garden of the institution is the most important of this all. The children are free to play wherever they want in the garden, they are only not allowed to go outside the boundaries, which are marked by some bushes and a fence. The fence is not locked, the children know that only adults may open it.

For me it was a real eye-opener to see that even children not older than 3 years can use saws and knives. The idea of letting the children use this objects is to make them conscious about the fact that saws and knives are tools, not things to play with. The young children learn how to use the tools from the older children. The children also learn from a mistake, if they make one.

Another surprising thing was to see the children playing war with fake-guns and tanks, because in the Netherlands children are not allowed to do that. Time will children learn that guns and tanks are not good things.

Everything in this institution showed me that the children get the possibility to learn on their own speed and their own level. Every child is seen as an individual.

The children know what they can expect on certain times on a day, because there is besides the freedom also structure. The children always eat at the same time and have there own spots in the eating rooms. Every day at two o'clock an instructor will read a story while the children are eating.

The quality of the relation between the children and the grown up's is very good. The main thing all the instructors have is patience and tranquility. The attitude against the children is very respectful because the children are treated equal as adults. Because of this attitude, the grown up's also get a lot of respect back. It is also good to see that the number of men and women working as teachers in the institution is almost equal. That is a big difference with the most institutions in the Netherlands, where there are a lot more women working as teachers.

In conclusion I really enjoyed to have a look at this hospitable institution. I liked to see all the differences and similarities in comparison with Dutch institutions.