Out of home care in Finland- premises for high quality
Forms of out of home care

Foster care:

• With relatives or other kin, or a foster family (a commission agreement).
• A professional foster family home

Residential care:

• Child welfare institution, family rehabilitation unit, reform school, institution for substance abusers, institution for people with intellectual disabilities
Out of home care? What kind and why?

• What are the goals with the care > change?

• What are the client needs > what type of service/methods?

• Which factors may affect the possible changes? (systems view)

• Which factors inhibit and which support the process?
Research data

• The documents of public competitive tendering (19 examples)

• Four group interviews (two for purchasers and two for service providers)

• Discussion with public officers who are responsible for monitoring out of home care services
Premises for a high quality care

• A solid framework for out of home care activities
  • laws, directions, guidelines for practical implementation

• Capability to respond to the individual needs of a child

• Capability to generate changes
  • a short and long time dimension

• Assessment of changes: how does the care respond to the needs of the child?
Key factors

1. Appropriate matching of a child and a place
2. A well-functioning welfare service system
3. Individual decision making procedures. 
   - questions the possibility of setting an exact criteria for standardized measuring/evaluation methods
4. Mutual trust and child participation 
   - participatory approach and multi-perspective service assessment
5. Skillful practitioners
Family rehabilitation

Motivation period
1-2 months
at clients home

Family rehab. center
8 weeks

Intensive familywork
4 months
at clients home

The social worker of the family makes decisions and follows up the rehabilitation process

The aim of the family rehabilitation

• to strengthen parenthood
• to improve everyday life of the family
• to increase positive interaction skills
• to support the family to live independently at home
• to empower the family
• to help finding mutual joy
Developing and assessing the family rehabilitation

- dialogical, reflective and narrative approaching
- a continuous process
- collecting feedback from the clients and the co-workers
- the assessment of the work at family center
- the mutual assessment and statistics of the family rehab
- continuous education
Thank you!