

# Ringsted Municipality's Child and Youth Policy



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RINGSTED KOMMUNE



Ringsted 11th March 2013

## Introduction

The child and youth policy is our common foundation in work with all children and young people, regardless of their age and predispositions.

The policy covers all areas of child and youth policy, i.e. day care, teaching, child- and family area as well as the area of health and prevention.

The child and youth policy intertwines with leisure, cultural- and working life, in order to support good transitions in the lives of children and young people. The policy focuses specifically on making a coherent effort in relation to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and their families. The child and youth policy is the concretization of the City Council's vision "Ringsted - The heart lies in the middle".

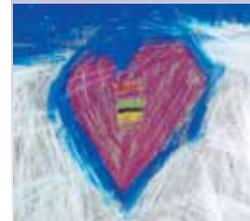
The child and youth policy sends an important signal about the values our work must ground on, and how the professionals meet children, young people and their families. The ambition of this policy is to outline visionary and dynamic guidelines, while providing good opportunities to establish objectives and initiatives regarding the concrete circumstances and experiences. Everyone, who works with children, young people and families, ought to apply the values of this policy, both within their own area and across the other policy areas and institutions.

The child and youth policy applies any time, regardless of the given budget frames. Each year the City Council's special priorities will appear on the adopted budget.

Signed by the Mayor and the Chairman of Committee  
Ringsted 11th March 2013

Niels Ulrich Hermansen  
Mayor

Sadik Topcu  
Chairman of Committee



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**We want all children and young people to become proactive fellow citizens, who can contribute to the communities they are participants of**

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## **This is what we stand for**

In Ringsted municipality we create the best possible upbringing and living conditions for all children and young people.

We ensure that children and young people feel they have value in themselves, and we support them in order to succeed in life and make choices, both alone and with others. We are ambitious and involve the latest knowledge about development, learning and wellbeing, use modern technology and involve the body, aesthetics, music and creativity in our ways of learning.

We want all children and young people to become proactive fellow citizens, who can contribute to the communities they are participants of. This is best done in inclusive communities that perceive diversity as a resource.

As employees in Ringsted municipality, we meet the children, the young and their families with dialogue, engagement and respect. We ensure unity and coherence, and we think in terms of prevention and human resources while we involve multiple perspectives and disciplines in our joint efforts.

We are aware that we are co-creators of reality through the way we express ourselves and act, and we know that action can only be carried out if children, young people and families have been involved, listened to and understood.



## Formation and education matters!

The core task of the child and youth policy area is to stimulate children and young people to become proactive citizens who can in the best possible way take care of themselves and contribute to the communities they participate in.

The formation already begins from the birth and takes place in all the contexts in which child or young person is part of – both, institution, school, leisure- and sport activities and family. Formation must in particular enable children and young people to cope with life and give them insight and courage to make personal choices based on a sound judgment.

Education should focus on making children and young people competent to perform well in working life. We hold high educational ambitions on behalf of children and the youth and we expect they unfold their personal and academic potentials.

## Therefore, in Ringsted we will:

- Strengthen health promotion and prevention, because the child's early years are crucial for the chances in future life.
- Find the potentials and development opportunities of all children and young people, and meet all children and young people with relevant challenges.
- Open ourselves towards nature, culture, local community and the world, because it is in the meeting with the world around us that children and young people become proactive adults.



## Inclusive communities provide better opportunities for all

A human is an active social being that develops in interaction with others. Therefore, all children and young people shall have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to meaningful and tolerant communities.

We perceive diversity as a strength and know that the prerequisite to succeed in a diverse society is that children and young people learn to interrelate with people different from themselves.

We want all children and young people to have a chance to develop within inclusive communities, as this gives the best opportunities to be challenged, broaden ones horizons, and to become an active citizen in the future society.

Inclusion is not solely about presence, but to a large extent about the acceptance, active participation and professional, social and personal development for all. Here, the experiences of children and young people are essential for inclusion to take place.

## Therefore, in Ringsted we will:

- Ensure that all children and young people have the opportunity to participate in a meaningful community, as close to their near environment as possible.
- Ensure that inclusive communities provide the best educational and social development of all children and young people in the community.
- Further develop the human, organizational and physical resources needed to create inclusive development environments



## We do more of what works best

Employees' encounter with children, young people and their families can have an essential impact on them to succeed.

The good encounter can be nonetheless challenged by the economic pressure on the welfare services. Therefore, we demand from ourselves to ensure the best possible initiatives and outcome for the resources available.

We know that the effect of concrete initiatives can be determined by many different conditions, for example the context and the relationship between the adult and the child/the young.

Translating scientific knowledge and focusing on documentation and evaluation is an integral part of the development of practices that shall benefit the children, youth and families.

## Therefore, in Ringsted we will:

- Create a good framework in order that scientific knowledge and local experiences are translated into a practice which creates change.
- Strengthen an evaluation culture in which all employees reflect on their own and each other's practical experiences, and where it appears natural to involve children, young people and families we work with.
- Ensure there is a short distance between a good idea and the change of practice that benefits to children, young people and their families.



## Children and youth are in the center of their own lives

The children, young people and families we work with are in the center of all our efforts. The meeting between citizens and employees should be managed in a respectful and decent manner, recognizing that the effort aimed at children, the young and their families will be better when it is desired and planned by the child/the young/the family self.

We must search to understand the perspectives and desires of children, young people and the families, and meet everybody with recognition and respect.

It is the child's and the young's situation and wishes that are central in making efforts to achieve meaningful initiatives.

As employees, we should be clear and plain in the dialogue, but we also have a special responsibility to bear in mind that reality can look different, depending on the eyes of the beholder. A specific academic assessment of a child or young person should never stand alone. Thus, the ability to define what is good for others ought to be followed by modesty.

## Therefore, in Ringsted we will:

- In our work have an eye for the child's and the adolescent's experiences and comprehensions, as well as the relationships in which they participate.
- Involve children, young people and their families in all decisions of their daily lives.
- Develop our ways to collaborate equally with the children, young people and their families.



## Employees in Ringsted collaborate for the best of children, youth and families

Employees in Ringsted municipality work professionally, which implies respect and curiosity for other disciplines and perspectives. Regardless of profession, it is expected that other people are met with acknowledgment and respect.

The interdisciplinary collaboration must constantly progress, in that the child's and the family's situation and desires are central in achieving meaningful initiatives. Therefore, we hold a special obligation to ensure a good interrelation.

In the professional collaboration, we constantly seek to move beyond the individual professional approaches and perspectives, in the light of understanding that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. The focus of the collaboration is on generating sustainable solutions rather than thinking in terms of problems and limitations.

It is the duty of employees to ensure consistency in their professional work and contribute to making the transitions in lives of children and youth become meaningful.

## Therefore, in Ringsted we will:

- Organize our selves so the interdisciplinary approach is utilized best possible to solve our core task, by breaking down the disciplinary boundaries at the municipal- and institutional level.
- To strengthen the interdisciplinary collaboration within and across all institutions and areas, regardless of the logics of formal organisation.
- Insist on identifying the potentials in the development of human resources, instead of focusing on professional or organizational constraints.



The images in this folder, all contributions from children and young people who participated in the art competition in the fall of 2012.



## RINGSTED KOMMUNE



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