



# Involving the Voices of Children and Parents in Transition from Preschool to Primary School

A case study in an Icelandic preschool



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



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# The project has three parts

1. Action research carried out in one preschool.
  1. Lena's master study
2. Findings from the interviews will be discussed in focus groups of stakeholders.
3. Guidelines for courses based on the experience from the project will be developed.





# Chapter - Action research

- Policy analysis
- Need analysis
- Focus group interviews
- Visits
- Documentation





# Action research

- The focus is on transition between the school levels and cooperation of educators, children and parents. The aim is to make the transition phase in children's lives as positive and educating as possible and create continuity between the two school levels. The emphasis is on well-being, participation and learning.
- The aim is also to develop new methods of cooperation that embraces dialogues of relevant actors in the process.





# Action research

- Educators, children, and parents cooperated during the action research project.
- Interviews were conducted with parents, educators, and children at the beginning of the project (need analysis) and again at the end of it (evaluation)





# Action research

- Need analysis:
  - The three parties did not have any direct suggestion about the themes in the beginning of the journey
  - The researchers suggested the theme
  - The educators in the preschool decided that the project would be based on the children's perspectives and ideas, with support from educators and parents





# Action research

- Implementation:
  - Mind mapping: Children's first ideas about compulsory school
  - Compulsory school visits
  - Mind mapping: Children's experiences and thoughts about the visit
  - Parent's participation
    - In the beginning it was decided that their participation would be through information and discussions during the process, not the least with their children





# Action research

- Project evaluation:
  - Interviews with parents
    - They had much stronger opinions about how the cooperation between the school levels should be
  - Interviews with children
    - They suggested new ways of the transition and their suggestions were accepted
  - Interviews with preschool educators
    - They felt that this group of children were more enthusiastic and secure about starting compulsory school







# What we will work on ...

- Research questions
- The Signals concepts (should there be a preface in the Compendium?)
- Methodology
- and .....





# Focus groups

## Following up the action research

- Findings of the action research and interviews will be discussed in focus groups of stakeholders.
  - parents,
  - preschool teachers,
  - representatives from the municipalities





# A new course

## Outcomes from the project

- Guidelines for a new course based on the experience from the action research, the policy analysis, the literature review and the interviews with focus groups.
- The course will be offered to M.Ed. students in the preschool teachers' study. Preschool teachers working in the field will also be able to take the course as a part of their professional development.





# Dissemination

- The project will be introduced at *Menntakvika*, the yearly educational conference within the School of Education, University of Iceland, held October 2nd.
- The findings of the action research, interviews with the parents and discussions in the focus groups will be utilized to organize a course on cooperation between children, parents and educators in the preschool teacher M.Ed. study, and will be implemented in the school year 2016-2017.
- Articles will be written in journals (or as book chapters) about the findings of the action research, the research with parents and the focus group study.

