

Tintti Karppinen, drama teacher
Väinölänk. 8 B, 00610 Helsinki, Finland
tel. +358 400 794762 tintti.karppinen@welho.com

Rostock 8 –10 May 2009

Please Play with me; the use of drama in educating Children and Adolescents at risk

Drama and games for cooperation (Abstract)

Description of some practical exercises how we can use the creativity of children and adolescents in kindergarten, schools and work places.

The philosophy of drama and games in the perspective how we can evaluate traditional, world-wide known plays and games and modify their values to fit for contemporary drama, communication and peace education.

How to collaborate, when there are so many different personalities with so many different life styles, values, cultural back grounds etc. in the group? How to choose the warming up –games so that we are aware of the sub themes that they teach in the way they are played.

The games and plays that I have invented or developed to help teachers to use their own rich resources of games.

Many of the values that we as adults have, are based on the games we played as child. Too many children and adults cannot play any more in its original meaning. They take all games as a real fight, where the winning is much more important than social event, collaboration and having fun together. Most games teach us only the importance of being better, stronger, quicker or cleverer than the others. But much more important is to learn that it is fun to play, create and work together!

What is really evaluated in PISA and what are the shadows behind it? Too many youngsters feel themselves outsiders or failed. Therefore the curriculum must be changed so that it includes also drama as a most valuable art subject. Drama is always a social activity, where people learn to “walk in someone else’s shoes” and solve conflicts in a safe and peaceful way. Drama is also a most valuable method in teaching other subjects. It is learning by doing.

Drama can help us to tell our own story and to share it with others with safety and respect. We can express our thoughts, feelings, emotions and concept of life and its values - and above all, we learn to live in peace with people who have different thoughts and concepts of life!