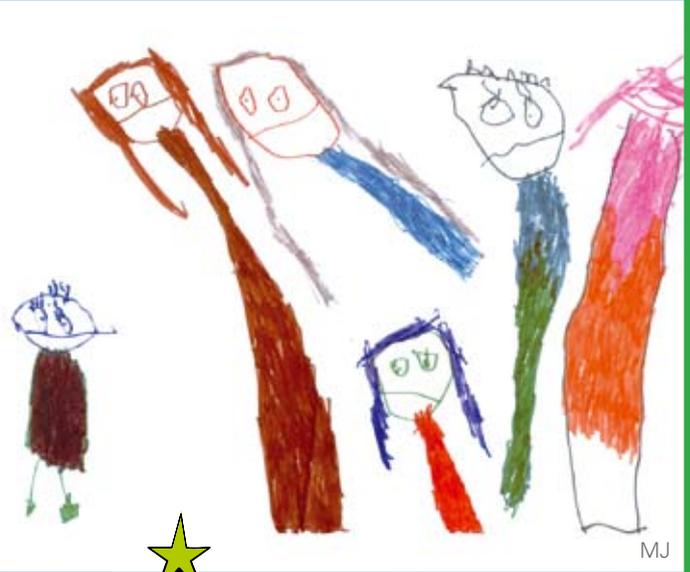


THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Academy of Finland
Research Programme
SKIDI-KIDS 2010–2013



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SKIDI-KIDS)

2010–2013



SKIDI-KIDS IN BRIEF

The Research Programme on the Health and Welfare of Children and the Young People (SKIDI-KIDS) examines environments of childhood growth, service systems, and challenges for children's health and the promotion of health through research. The programme further strives to provide the background information necessary for conducting public debate based on solid evidence, to provide reliable knowledge for use in policy-making processes, and to promote the use of research findings. The Academy of Finland is implementing the programme in cooperation with the Finnish Ministry of Education and a Canadian research funding organisation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The programme will provide funding for nine consortia and eight individual research projects in 2010–2013. The Academy contributes EUR 8.5 million to funding, while the Ministry of Education provides EUR 575,000.

Health and welfare are important for all age groups, though the concepts as such are a challenge to define. The foundation for the health and well-being that people enjoy later in life is built in childhood. The values and attitudes concerning well-being and health, lifestyles, behavioural models and the factors that affect them are absorbed during childhood. Beneficial models for children's health and welfare include healthy lifestyles; balanced amounts of physical exercise and rest; a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle; healthy and varied eating habits as a means to weight control; mental health and a balanced emotional life; hobbies and interests; and social contacts. Models that promote health and well-being are shaped in interaction between the child's family and its immediate environment. The adoption of models is also influenced by the child's broader social frame of reference, social trends in general and cultural factors. The development of children's welfare is part of childhood, which is changing socially and culturally. Children's environments and communities differ

significantly from the environments in which previous generations grew up.

The opportunities to take into account the needs of children and young people as defined by themselves have fundamentally increased in the long term as economic well-being has strengthened. Recently, however, the economic recession and cost-cutting brought on by it have tended to undermine these opportunities. UNICEF and the EU have compared the welfare of children in prosperous countries. According to reports, the situation in Finland is quite good, although the country is amongst the weaker ones in comparisons in relation to risky behaviour, such as the frequency of the use of intoxicants, a trend which continues to grow. Finland was also poorly positioned in the comparison of children's eating habits, physical activity and weight development. Furthermore, negative development was noted in Finnish children's relationships with family and friends and in their enjoyment of school. There are indications of





an increase in child inequality in Finland. A growing number of children and young people are in danger of being excluded from a balanced and satisfactory childhood, which will also affect their chances of achieving a good quality of life as adults.

Research provides the background information necessary for conducting public debate based on solid evidence, and reliable knowledge for use in policy-making processes. The SKIDI-KIDS research programme strives to promote the use of research findings. The aim of this programme dealing with the growth, well-being and health of children is to gather together a critical mass of research challenges on the themes of the research programme for diverse and extensive examination. The programme is implemented in cooperation with the Finnish Ministry of Education and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). International cooperation with Canada opens up a broader intercultural approach to research on the health and welfare of children and young people.

Research themes of the SKIDI-KIDS programme

The SKIDI-KIDS programme contains three research themes, which should be viewed as mutually supporting fields of research:

- environments of childhood growth
- service systems
- challenges for children's health and the promotion of health

In addition to these, studying the causes of inequality and marginalisation in a research-based way is a theme running right through this research programme.





Aims of the SKIDI-KIDS programme

- to support high-quality research and researcher training targeted at children's health and welfare;
- to support comprehensive research into the factors both promoting and hindering children's positive development;
- through research, to study inequality in child health and welfare and the causes of marginalisation, and to look at ways of changing this trend;
- to promote interdisciplinary cooperation, co-operation between research groups, a multidisciplinary approach and an overall view of children's health and welfare;
- to gather together fragmented research capacity to create broad research environments;
- to promote the networking of researchers, both nationally and internationally;
- to collect high-quality research materials and promote their general use;
- to promote research projects in which children can actively participate.

WHY ARE MORE AND MORE
TEENAGERS TAKEN INTO CARE?

DO MORE CHILDREN
SUFFER FROM WEIGHT
PROBLEMS TODAY?

DO WELFARE SERVICES
REACH THE PEOPLE WHO
REALLY NEED THEM?

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Drawings: *Kasper Reivinen, Mi Jauhiainen*

Layout: *Sole Lätti*

Helsinki University Print, Helsinki 2010

SKIDI-KIDS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

Sleep for cognitive, social and emotional development (CHILD-SLEEP)

Paunio Tiina, National Institute for Health and Welfare
Paavonen Juulia, National Institute for Health and Welfare
Pökki Pirjo, University of Eastern Finland
Saarenpää-Heikkilä Outi, Tampere University Hospital

Interactions between adipose tissue, muscle, and bone during growth – Role of adiposity-related low-grade inflammation (AMB study)

Cheng Sulin, University of Jyväskylä
Lahesmaa Riitta, University of Turku
Väänänen Kalervo, University of Turku
Yli-Harja Olli, Tampere University of Technology

Preterm birth and childhood trajectories leading to marginalisation or social coping (FINCAN)

Kajantie Eero, National Institute for Health and Welfare
Andersson Sture, University of Helsinki
Eriksson Johan, Folkhälsan
Laivuori Hannele, University of Helsinki
Räikkönen-Talvitie Katri, University of Helsinki
Schmidt Louis A., McMaster University

Stress, attachment and the developing brain (SADBrain)

Karlsson Hasse, University of Turku
Huotilainen Minna, University of Helsinki
Paunio Tiina, National Institute for Health and Welfare

Towards children's efficacious agency in formal and informal contexts (AGENTS)

Kumpulainen Kristiina, University of Helsinki
Järvelä Sanna, University of Oulu

Children tell of their well-being – who listens? (TelLis)

Syrjälä Leena, University of Oulu
Karlsson Liisa, University of Helsinki

Disparities in health and wellbeing among children in Finland: Ethnic background, social contexts of development and health-related lifestyles (ETNOKIDS)

Laatikainen Tiina, National Institute for Health and Welfare
Söderling Ismo, Family Federation

Strong Families Finland Canada – Family-based prevention and treatment program of early childhood disruptive behaviour (SFFC)

Sourander Andre, University of Turku
McGrath Patrick, IWK Health Centre

Kids Out! – Urban environments and physical activity among children and adolescents

Hynynen Ari, Tampere University of Technology
Kyttä Marketta, Aalto University
Vasankari Tommi, UKK Institute

Preventing children's marginalization through place-based participation

Häkli Jouni, University of Tampere

Intergenerational partnerships: Emergent forms for promoting children's wellbeing

Alanen Leena, University of Jyväskylä

Longitudinal study on children taken into care in Finland

Heino Tarja, National Institute for Health and Welfare

Educational outcomes and health of children – Does increased segregation of schools and areas in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area produce poorer health and learning among children?

Rimpelä Matti, University of Tampere

Pathways to positive youth development:

A large-scale interdisciplinary international consortium

Salmela-Aro Katariina, University of Helsinki

School bullying: Intervention effects and their mechanisms at the individual, dyadic, classroom and school levels

Salmivalli Christina, University of Turku

Children's emotional security in multiple family relations

Jokinen Kimmo, University of Jyväskylä

Integrating health and social services into the environments of childhood growth from birth to starting school: The development and evaluation of a family services model by means of a cluster controlled trial design

Perälä Marja-Leena, National Institute for Health and Welfare



FURTHER INFORMATION

Academy of Finland

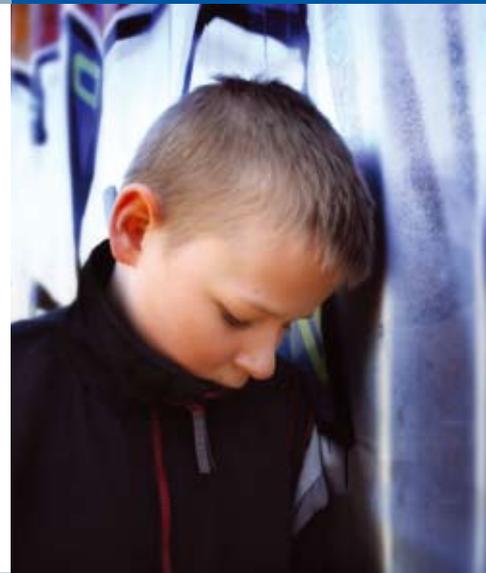
Jukka Reivinen, PhD
Programme Manager
jukka.reivinen@aka.fi

Sanna Vitikainen
Project Officer
sanna.vitikainen@aka.fi

Academy of Finland, tel. + 358 9 774 881

Programme website:

WWW.AKA.FI/SKIDI-KIDS



OTHER FUNDING AGENCIES:



OPETUSMINISTERIÖ



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Vilhonvuorenkatu 6 • POB 99, FI-00501 Helsinki, Finland
Tel. +358 9 774 881 • Fax +358 9 7748 8299
www.aka.fi/eng • keskus@aka.fi