

Workshop D: Identifying and Addressing Risk Factors in the Early Years

1. The Early Intervention training programme

Presenter: Ellen Olavesen

Tidlig Inn (The Early Intervention training programme) is a national initiative funded by the Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Families. The Training Programme includes specific tools, conversation methods and exercises for health professionals in prenatal and infant healthcare services to strengthen their professional skills in identifying and responding to risk factors in the early years. Competence in identifying and conversing with pregnant women and parents about alcohol use, psychological difficulties and violence will increase the likelihood that the goals of early identification of families at risk and early intervention and support will be achieved. The training programme is delivered by regional teams and consists of lectures, supervision, professional training, development of local procedures, stepped care and cross-sectoral collaboration.

2. Non-violent childhood in Finland: Implications for the early years

Presenter: Ulla Korpilahti

This presentation will describe the background for a new Action Plan for a Non-Violent Childhood in Finland, its focus and implementation across the country. Examples will be given of the plan's actions in different settings, including maternity and child health care clinic services. The talk will also include an introduction to the Finnish maternity and child health care clinic services and extensive health examinations that take place for both parents during pregnancy and after birth. These examinations offer a unique venue to explore, prevent and address risk for intimate partner violence and violence against children in pregnancy and the early years.

3. The Family outpatient clinics in Denmark

Presenters: Michelle Kolls and Camilla Dolberg Schmidt

This presentation will offer an introduction to the Danish Family Outpatient Clinic model. Since 2011, all Danish regions have established family outpatient clinics that are connected with their prenatal services. The family outpatient clinics offer specialized support for families at risk because of mental illness, violence or alcohol and substance abuse with the aim of reducing long-term harm to children. The family outpatient service can extend over a long period of time, from pregnancy until the child reaches school age. The presentation describes how to integrate and develop new knowledge and methods for early prevention for families in order to strengthen the mental wellbeing and healthy development of infants and toddlers born into vulnerable circumstances.