

# **The concept of care in an educare model and the toddlers in the Nordic ECEC**

**Early Childhood Education and Care  
The Nordic Way  
International Conference  
Oslo 26 – 27 March 2019**

# New Management

Family policy → part of the education system



→ New concepts: (re)defined mission?

# Learning and development

- Holistic approach
- Integrates caring, fostering, playing and creativity
- The starting point: the curriculum goals ...  
... with a teaching approach
- Care is of particular importance
- Requires a presence of trained preschool teachers

# The concepts of education and teaching have been criticized

- Teaching: “to stimulate and support children's learning and development in a certain direction based on the curriculum goals”
- → Alienating from care and play?



# The Nordic educare model

- Smaller groups of children
- Work team, led by teachers
- Problems in keeping a good standard of staff (Sweden)
- Sickness leave and mental illness are increasing sharply (Sweden)



# Research on the quality

- One third of the preschools are of high quality
- One third of good quality
- One third of low quality
  
- 20 % “insufficient quality” in inspected toddler units

# To be analyzed further

- The relationship between:
  - the pedagogical goals described in the curriculum
  - the actual conditions for those who are to realize the ambitions

*Our responsibility: to enable preschools, which can be places for care, play and education for all children, respected by and helpful to the families involved.*

[christian.eidevald@gu.se](mailto:christian.eidevald@gu.se)