

Evaluating together – learning together

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Our abstract is based on three different researches, which have in common the participative re-search methods. The methods are slightly different but have many joint aspects. In our presentation we will introduce our research methods and what are the elements in those three methods that make them supportive to participative learning process. Our wider research context has been practice- and case research. Our method has been to participate service users, social workers, other authorities and researcher. We call our method as co-evaluation (Järvinen 2007) empowered evaluation (Kivipelto 2008), participated evaluation or co-construction (Rautiainen 2010). Our context in every research is child protection in open care (see Hearn, Pösö Smith, White and Korpinen 2004). We have collected our research material together with service users, social workers and other authorities. Together with participant we have evaluated the heart of social work; joint work to make change in people's lives. The precise focus is different in each research. The focus has been in child protection social work: assessment, co-operation and knowledge creation about child. In our presentation we will tell more specifically about each research, what are our experiences about using participative methods in research, what it means in action and finally we discuss how this promotes participative learning process. We have noticed, that participative research methods include elements of developing and learning and this combination can create a joint learning area to all participants.

Keywords: Child centred work, evaluating together, co-operation, joint learning area