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MONIKU-service for multilingual families





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MONIKU-service for multilingual families: Why?

- ❖ In 2016 in Espoo, 20.3% of children under 1 year and 18.2% of children under 7 years spoke a native language other than Finnish or Swedish.
- ❖ According to population projections, the number of multilingual children in Espoo is growing all the time.
- ❖ 29% of children receiving speech therapy were multilingual and 52% of the children receiving multiprofessional support (psychologist and speech therapist) were multilingual.

MONIKU-service for multilingual families - Why?

- ❖ The competence of children born to immigrants in schools in Finland was almost two years behind, even though many of them have been involved in early childhood education and all have gone through the beginning of basic Finnish education.
- ❖ In Espoo, the risk of foreign language speaking youth ending up outside of working life or education was more than four times higher than in Finnish and Swedish youth.
- ❖ Good linguistic abilities provide opportunities for children to be active participants in their education, and prevent exclusion.

**The foreign language and cultural environment does not adequately support native language development -
The child needs extra support from their parents and family!**



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MONIKU-service



- ❖ **MONIKU-service** is offered for all multilingual families living in Espoo who have a child under 1 year of age, and who have a native language other than Finnish or Swedish.
- ❖ **MONIKU-service** is part of Espoo's maternity and child clinic services; a health nurse and a multicultural family worker meet with the family in the clinic during the periodic inspections when the baby is 2 months and 6 months old, and just with the MONIKU-service worker, when the baby is 10 months old.
- ❖ **MONIKU-service** aims to support the parents in understanding their child's language development and the benefits of multilingualism. At the same time, it supports the families' integration into the society; the client has the opportunity to receive service guidance for herself and other family members from Espoo's various services (e.g. early childhood education, social work for families with children, and adult mental health services).

[Click here to learn more about what MONIKU is all about.](#)



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materials and discussion:

The native language is important because:

- is the foundation for your children's thinking and for a balanced development of their emotional lives.
- It is a vital part of your children's perception of who they are and where they belong.
- It is a tie to their family, relatives and friends.
- It is a tool of learning and creativity.

Sirkku Latomaa 2012, Multilingualism – a valuable resource: Advice for families [Monikielisyy - arvokas voimavara: Neuvoja perheille]

Lue lapselle.

Parental information:

The importance
of reading to
a child

If you read aloud your child will...

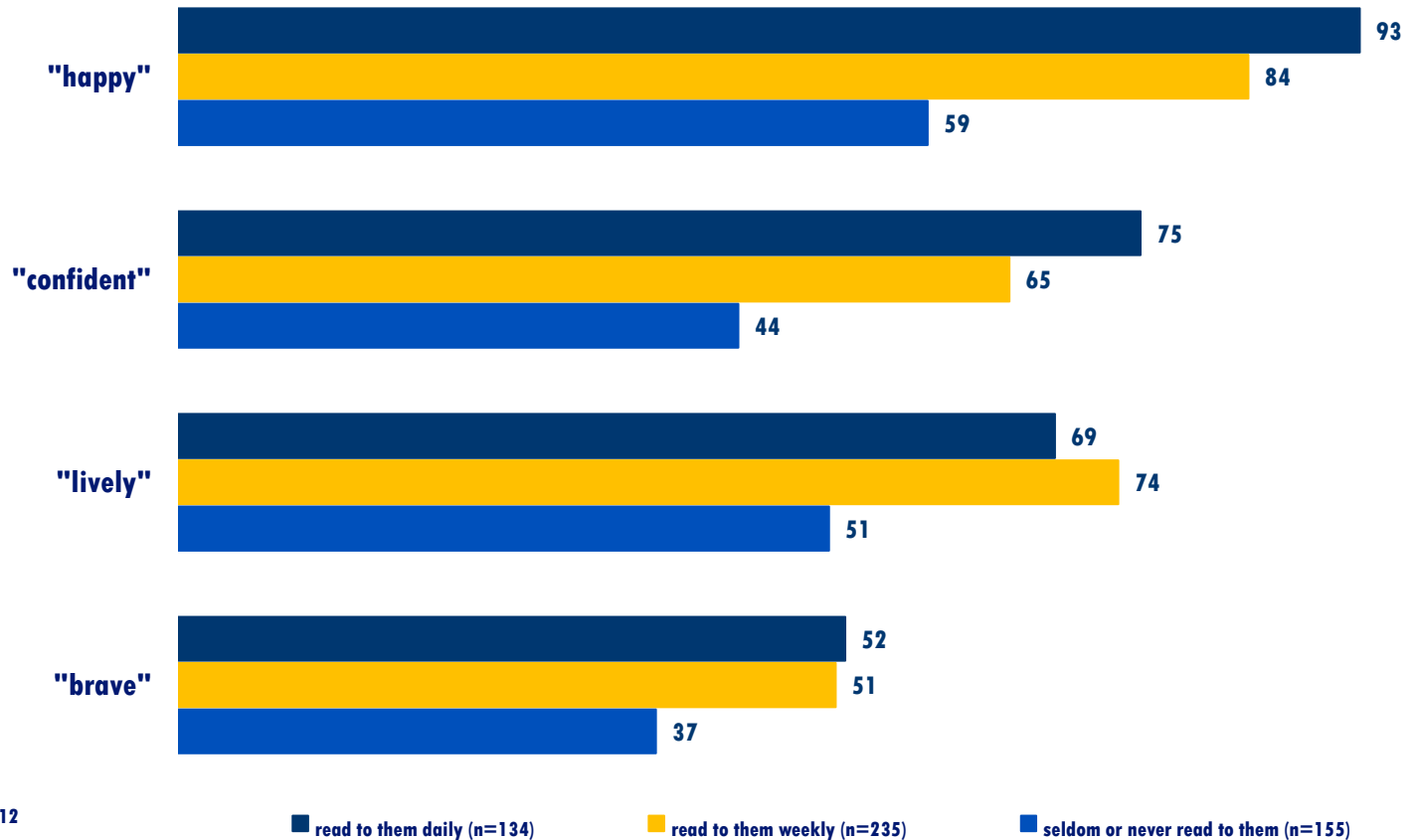
1. grow up to be **more confident** and social in a group setting
2. gain a considerably **wider vocabulary**
3. **be more successful at school**
4. get a **better start at life**
5. **be more talkative** at home
6. grow up to be a **more active and curious** as adult
7. **read more as adult as well**

The number of books at home, daily story times and regular visits to the library have a great influence in a child's reading habits. Studies show that by the age of three children in families that read have heard 20 million words more than children in families that don't read.



Children who were read to benefit when it comes to the development of their personality

- Question for mothers (n=524): "How would you describe your child? Which of the following characteristics applies to your child?" | Points 4 and 5 on a scale of 1: "strongly disagree " to 5: "strongly agree "| Numbers given in percent



Children between the ages of 8 and 12
whose parents ...



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Screen time

- Small children have been referred to Child Rehabilitation Services when autism is suspected. In this group have been non-English speaking children, who have learned their first words from English-language media. Some of the children showed autism spectrum-like symptoms, due to excessively long time in front of the screen and media.
- Screen time is not recommended for children under the age of one year, except Skype/video calling (for example, with grandparents).
- It is recommended that children under the age of two not be alone at the screen.
- Under school-age children should not spend more than an hour a day on the screen.



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Collecting data from the clients and services is important

- It creates possibilities for the client to actively participate in the service's development.
 - Information gathered is utilized in the client work.
 - It provides structure and understanding to the work.
-
- To communicate and report to the municipal council and directors how useful and beneficial the service is that we are providing, on the county level. (e.g. quantity and quality data.)
-
- To follow and develop the services on the basis of the gathered information (what works, what would be good to invest in more or in new ways).

Background information and statistics

- Incorporating the service into periodic inspections increases its accessibility to customers - already in the year of launching, the service has received 206 Northern Espoo multilingual families with babies (over 80% coverage).
- A total of 427 visits have been completed, in which the guidance and education is provided, in addition to the provision of guidance for the needs of the baby, the siblings and the parents - the objective is to support the family's integration into the society.
- The service is well-suited for families with babies from different language and cultural backgrounds. In the same households, there are 1 to 4 languages in use, 44 different native languages, and parents who have lived in Finland from ½ to 26 years.



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Information on MONIKU's achieved results

(N= 136)



SOSIAALI- JA TERVEYSTOIMI, PERHE- JA SOSIAALIPALVELUT, MONIKU-PALVELU
ASIAKASSEURANNAN LOMAKE



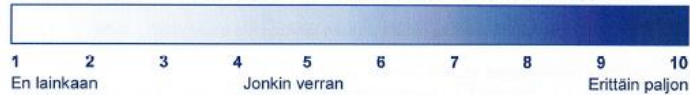
INITIAL
RESPONSE
RANGE:

1. Miten tärkeää sinulle on, että lapsesi oppii sinun kiellesi?



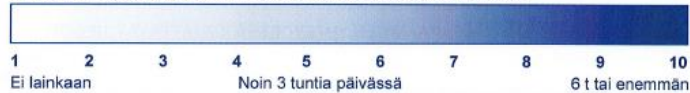
6-10

2. Pelkäätkö, että sinun kiellesi oppiminen vaikeuttaa lapsesi suomenkielen oppimista?



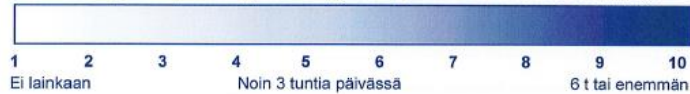
1-10

3. Kuinka paljon puhut omaa kieltäsi vauvallesi yhden päivän aikana?



2-10

4. Kuinka paljon puhut omaa kieltäsi vauvallesi samalla kun teet jotain yhdessä hänen kanssaan (esim. vaipanvaihto, pukeminen, syöminen, nukkumaan laittaminen, leikkiminen)?



2-10

5. Kuinka hyväksi ajattelet ruutuajan (esim. televisio, puhelin, tabletti, tietokone) olevan vauvasi kehitykselle?



1-10

6. Kuinka paljon aikaa vauvasi viettää ruudun ääressä yhden päivän aikana?



1-10

Tarkat tunnit jos 3. = 10: ____ 4. = 10 ____ 6. = 10 ____

The customer's understanding before, and after two MONIKU service visits, has changed, as follows:

- The value of teaching one's native language has increased by 27%.
- The fear that teaching one's native language will affect the child's Finnish language development negatively has decreased by 53%.
- Speaking one's native language to the baby has increased by 27%.
- Speaking to the baby during care and other interactive situations has increased by 20%.
- Understanding of the dangers of screentime for the baby's development has increased by 43%.
- 30% of babies spend less time in front of a screen than when the families started receiving the service.



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MONIKU's customer feedback form

(N=27)



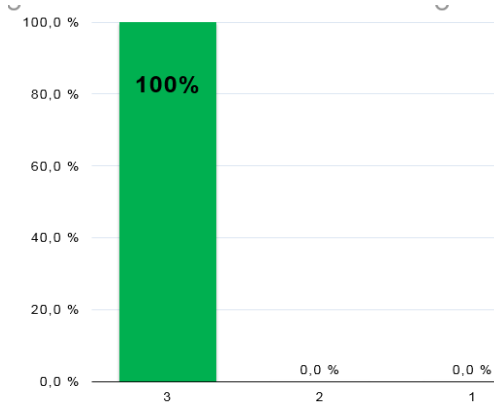
SOSIAALI- JA TERVEYSTOIMI, PERHE- JA SOSIAALIPALVELUT, MONIKU-PALVELU
ASIAKASPALAUTE



How happy were you with the MONIKU-service?



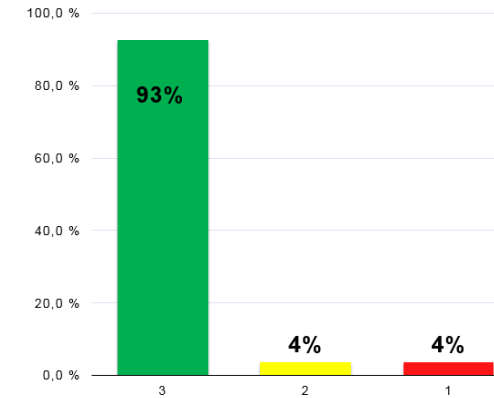
HAPPY 100%



How useful did you find the MONIKU-service?



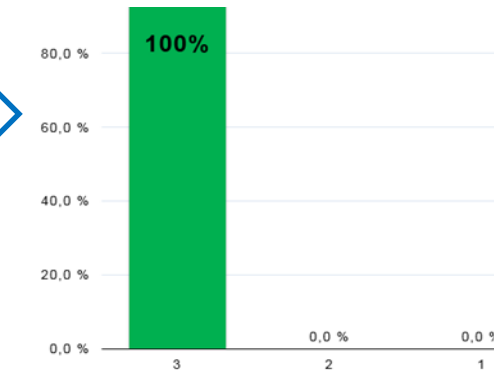
USEFUL 93%



Would you recommend the MONIKU-service to your friends?



RECOMMEND 100%



Why is MONIKU-service important?

- ❖ The MONIKU service was developed to increase operational equality, and to reduce the cost of rehabilitation and child welfare services and human suffering.
 - One speech therapy period costs about 1,380€ in Espoo. In addition to a number of rehabilitation periods, most of the children need supportive activities in daycare/school, a large part of which also include specialized health care, family work or child welfare services. Three early support meetings with a MONIKU employee cost a total of 222€. The service also influences the siblings' and parents' well-being.
 - Currently, two multicultural social service workers are being hired to provide the MONIKU service to multilingual families in Northern Espoo, to be joined by another in February. The aim is to extend the service throughout the whole of Espoo.

- ❖ MONIKU-service workers are also immigrants. We believe that this is important because:
 - The client and the worker have shared similar experiences (i.e. the immigration process and building a new life in a new country).
 - The experience of immigration:
 - creates a basis of understanding between the worker and the client, therefore facilitating the level of trust and communication from the client.
 - provides the worker with the knowledge of the kinds of services, guidance and assistance the client might need.

Occupational Therapist Laura Hansén has completed her Master in Health Care Rehabilitation Degree Programme with a Thesis on the benefits of early support MONIKU-service from the point of view of foreign-origin parents. <http://www.urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi:amk-2018112818801>

- Qualitative research; Thematic interviews
- Benefits of the service emphasize the importance of communication and speech quality for the infant, the strengthening of parenting activity and the mothers' experience of equal encounter by developing common understanding.

The Benefits of Early Support MONIKU -service in Strengthening Infant's Development from the Perspective of Mothers with Foreign Origin





MONIKU-service research

Social Counselor Hanne Mustiala is currently in the process of carrying out her Master's Degree in Management of Social and Health Services on MONIKU-service.

Thesis title: Health benefits for MONIKU-service clients in a diverse work community. Interviews of Espoo City's Social Counselors and MONIKU-service clients.

Hanne will be conducting interviews of individual MONIKU-service clients as well as a group interview of Espoo City's Social Counselors in Family Work and of MONIKU-workers.

Thank you!

Tack!

Kiitos!