THE EVALUATION OF QUALITY IN DAY CARE  
- A RESEARCH PROJECT

OBJECTIVE
To develop research-based and measurable criteria and indicators for quality in day care in an evaluation and assessment tool that can capture:

→ values and general child policy goals
→ subjective and culturally-based criteria in the curriculum
→ knowledge of children’s learning and development
→ knowledge of the processes and results of educational efforts to enhance quality in day care

METHODS
Quality assessment of learning environments: ECERS (international)

Quality assessment of learning environments: New timetables based on Danish curricula.

The evaluation of quality in day care links research knowledge to educational quality criteria that can be measured statistically and evaluated qualitatively.

The development of quality criteria that will be indicators for evaluation and development dialogue.

Systematisation of knowledge of how quality assessment is used in different contexts and the effects of its use on the development of educational practice.

BACKGROUND
The Danish Day Care Facilities Act, which provides the curriculum on which day care education is based, does not stipulate very clearly what children should learn and therefore how educational processes should be organised.

This means that we must accept that there are large local differences in the quality of day care facilities in Denmark, and also that we in fact have little knowledge of whether the desired politically determined targets are being met and what the quality is really like.

Children’s development does not come by itself. There is therefore considerable interest in the quality of the learning environment and the impact of education on children’s well-being, learning and development.

High quality depends on the day care staff’s approach to and knowledge of children. For this reason, the professionals should have access to the latest knowledge.

We are planning to improve this situation through a new research project involving cooperation with the local councils of Hjørring, Viborg and Vesthimmerland and Legetek.dk

THE PROJECT’S RESEARCH QUESTION
What is high-quality day care education and what effects does it have to the benefit of all children?

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