Non-Violent Childhoods – how to do it?

Let`s make every kid as a safe kid - together

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Is physical punishment of children allowed by the law?

• The range of corporal punishment of children and the development of related attitudes have been monitored in Finland since the 1980s.

• The Central Union for Child Welfare has carried out a survey on Finns’ parenting attitudes and methods.
Physical punishment of children is, at least in exceptional circumstances, an acceptable method of disciplining.
Non-Violent Childhoods Action Plan 2020-2025

• Contains 93 actions for preventing emotional, physical and sexual violence against 0–17-year old children in different growth and operating environments.
  • It contains also chapters from laws and agreements (e.g. CRC, Lanzarote convention→new implementation plan 2022), research results, statistics and emphasize multisectoral co-operation

• A steering group nominated by THL (incl. 4 ministries and 28 expert organizations and NGOs) is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. Mid-time evaluation will be done in 2022.

• Collaboration with END Violence & Pathfinder-network has started well. See also WHO 2021 p. 17-19, 52.
Preventive multisectoral work

• Finland has long and well monitored tradition to support parenthood and mental health as well as help children and youth and families in maternity and child health clinic services as well as in school health care services (338/2011)

• We also have been developing Family Centers to gather local services to for families

• Despite the alignment of legislation and good national and international treaties, some children in Finland are still subjected to violence of various types, both physical and especially emotional. Monitoring, coordination of national work and supporting leadership in different fields are needed. See Finnish Child Strategy 2021 (in English)