

**International conference
CHILD IN A KINSHIP CARE – PREPARATION
AND FURTHER SUPPORT OF THE FAMILIES**

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The Child in Focus -Model of Training and Support in Finland

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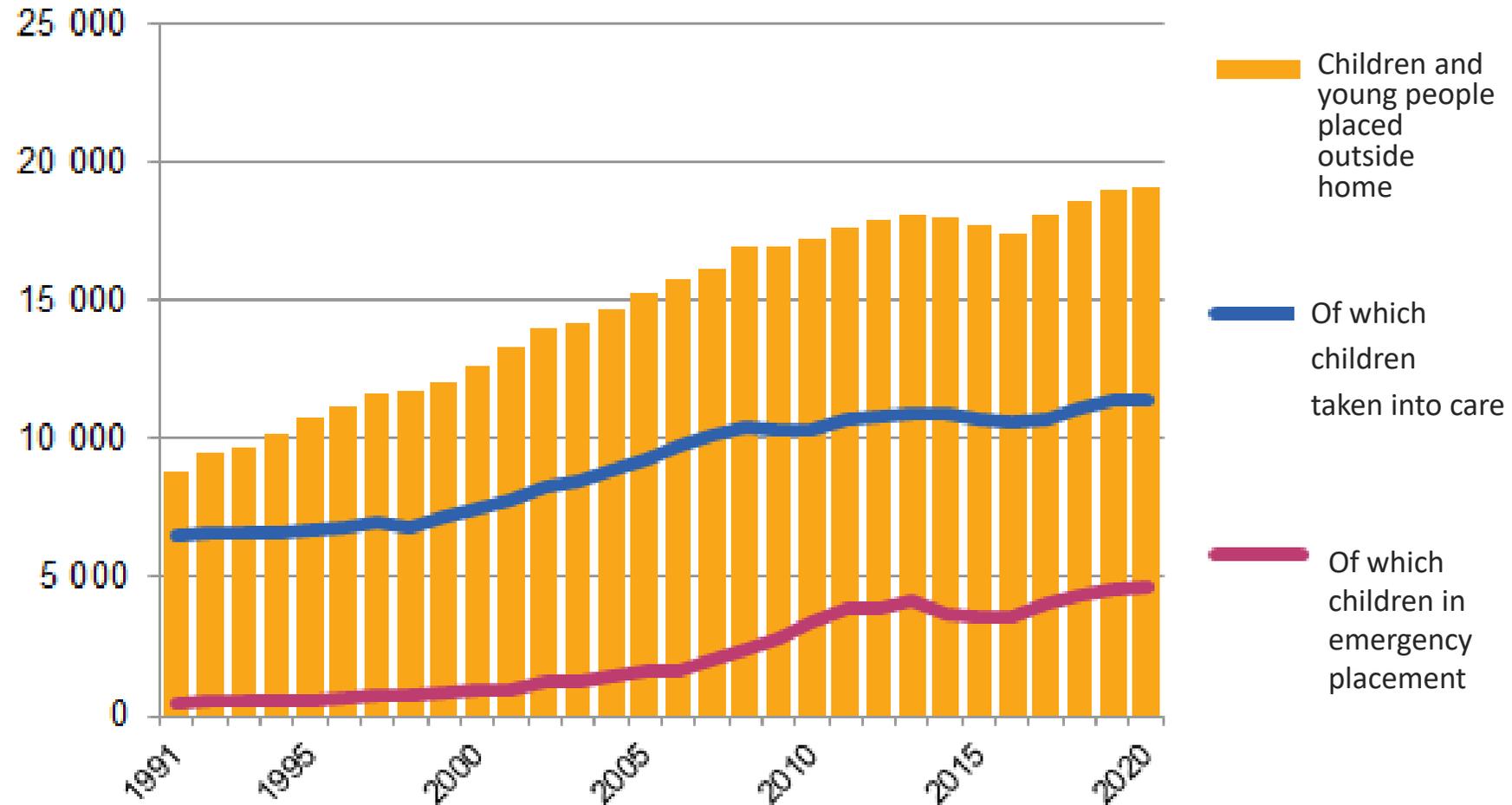


- Established in 1998
- Nonprofit organisation supported by Veikkaus
- Works to improve the situation of children who are clients of child welfare services
- Works to strengthen the children's involvement

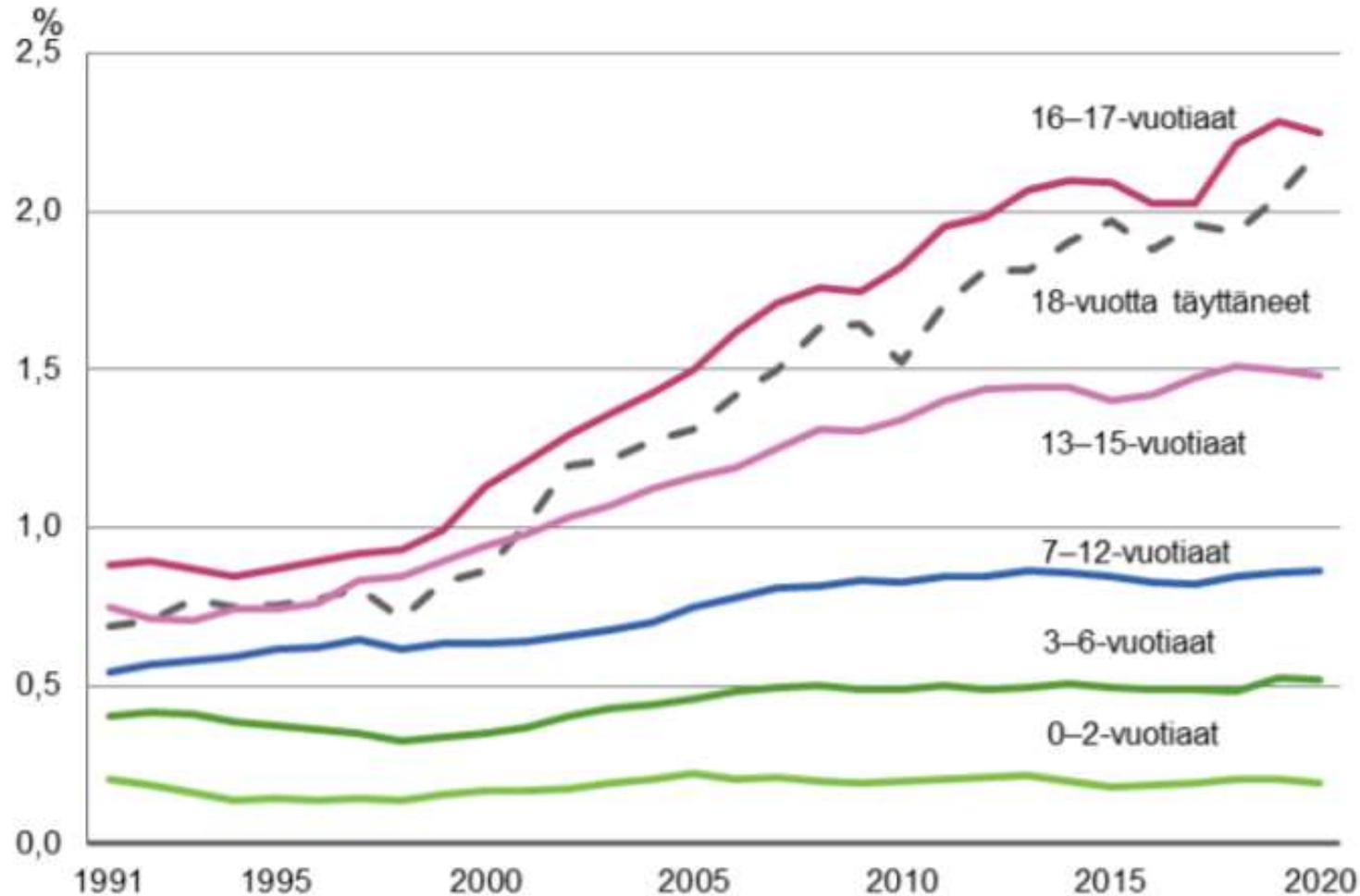
Statistics in 2020

- Population in Finland is 5,536 million
- Family difficulties and the need for support from child protection clients have increased due to the corona pandemic
- 48 802 children and young people were clients in child welfare
- 4 662 children were urgently placed
- 9 637 children were in care, of whom 56 % was in family care
- One in seven of children placed in family care were placed with relatives or close ones (743 children)
- The amendments to the law strengthened the right to aftercare and raised the age limit to include those under 25 years of age

Children and young people placed outside the home 1991–2020

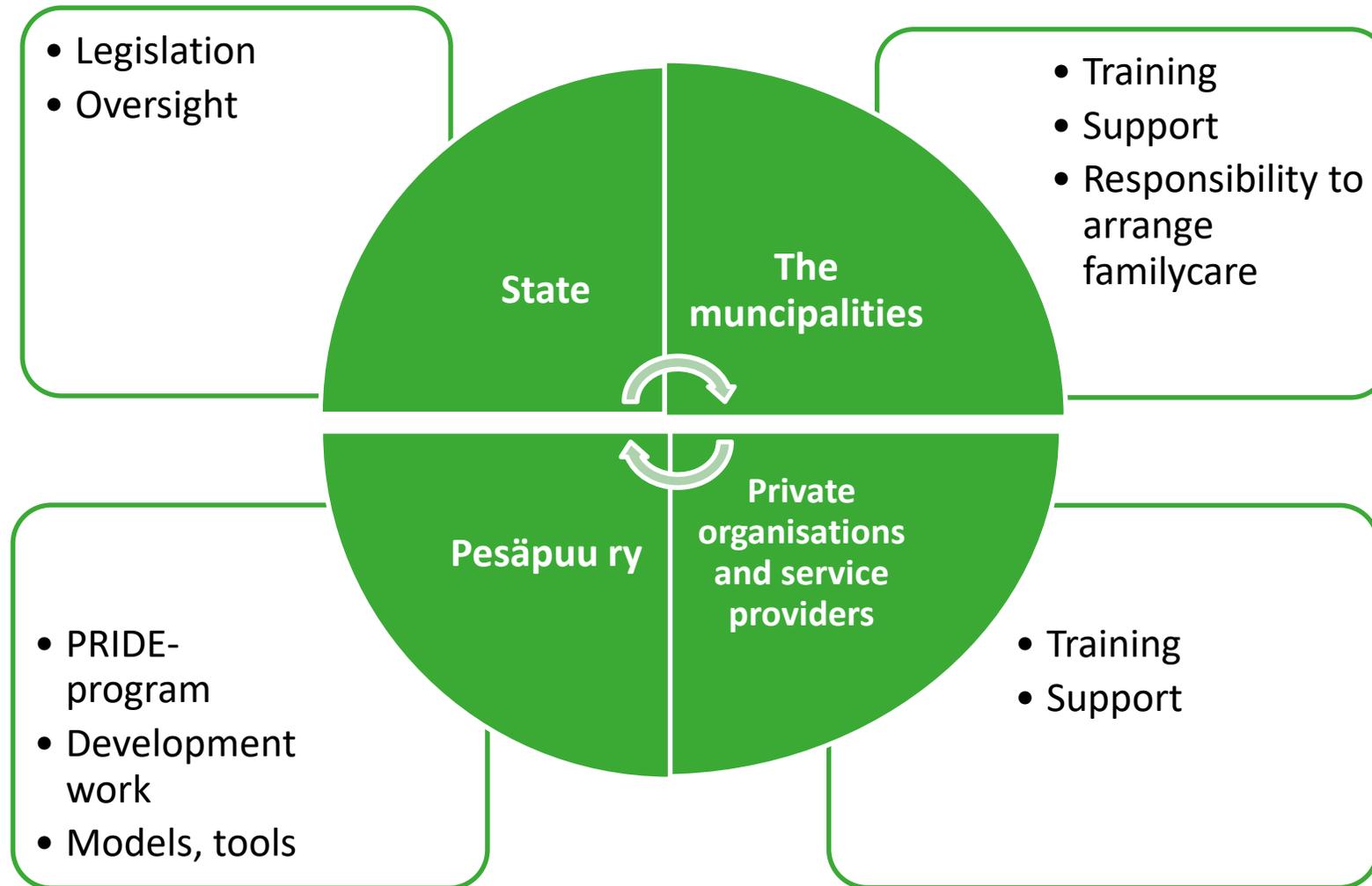


Children in care during the year in relation to the population of the same age in 1991-2020, %



Finnish institute for health and welfare

Training and support – Organisation and responsibility



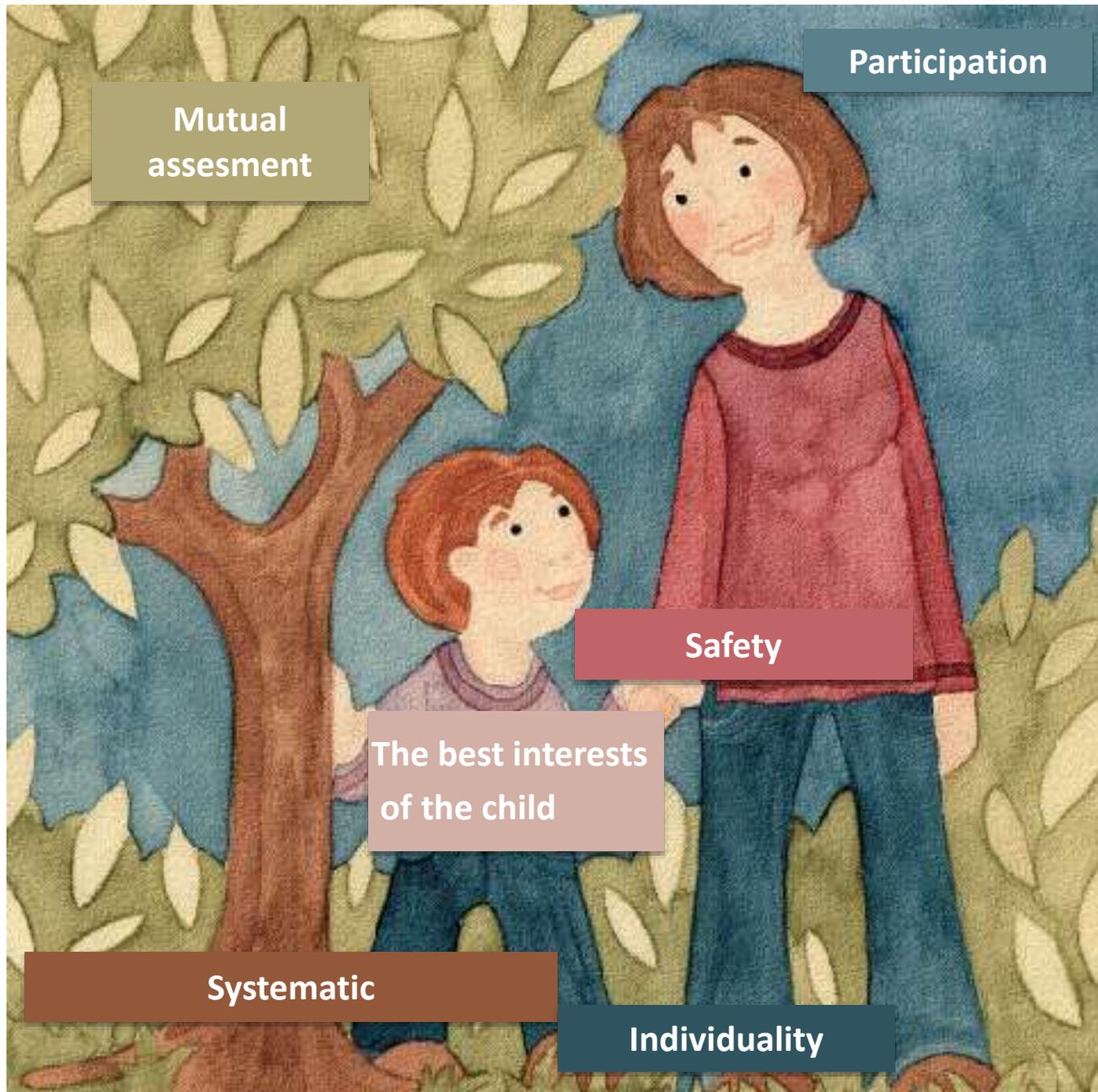
Family carer Act:

- As family carers can be accepted persons who have such education and training, experience or personal qualities that they are suitable to give family care.
- The municipality or the joint municipal board responsible for arranging family care is in charge of providing adequate training, job supervision and education to the family carer.

Training model for kinship caregivers

- In addition to PRIDE pre-training, a family specific training model has been in use since 2005
- The training model has been renewed for 2020
- The model emphasizes co-operation and child-centered work
- It is important to identify and address specific issues in kinship care

Basics:



Kinship care

A family-specific training model for training and assessment

Material

To the trainer:

To the kinship carer:



Five Core Competencies



1. Protecting and nurturing the child
2. Supporting the child's individual development
3. Supporting relationships with birth families
4. Committing to the child and supporting predictability and continuity in the child's life
5. Working as a member of a professional team



Family specific training model for kinship carers

The child needs a substitute care place that meets his or her needs



There is a family in the nearby network that wants to start training

No one wants to be a kinship carer



Training meetings		Mutual assessment	Competencies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beginning 2. Everyday life and networks 3. Life events 4. Education and care 5. Co-operation 6. Mutual assessment and decision making 	<p>Individual tasks that support the training process</p>	<p>Strengths and development needs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting and nurturing children 2. Supporting the child's individual development 3. Supporting relationships with birth families 4. Committing to the child and supporting predictability and continuity in the child's life 5. Working as a member of a professional team



Decision: Yes

Decision: No. How are the close ones otherwise involved and supporting the child's life?

Identifying the network of people close to the child

Goals:

- Are there relatives or other persons close to the child, who could think kinshipcare?
- Child's rights and individual needs
- Questions and worries of relatives or of loved ones
- Information about kinship care, child welfare and options
- Information about kinship training
- *Absolute obstacles and necessary statements*
- *Making a decision for the future (training or not)*

Beginning

Goals:

- Getting to know each other
- Giving information about child welfare and training
- Making written plan
- Getting to know five core competencies
- Providing information on the right and responsibilities of the foster parent

Everyday life and networks

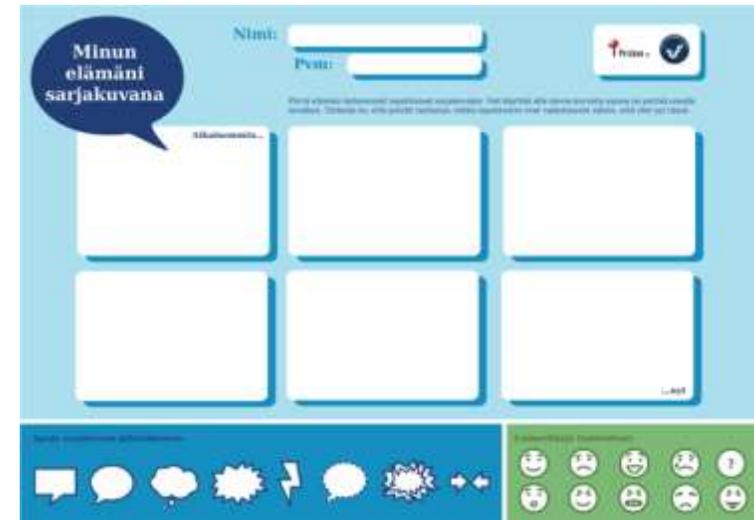
Goals:

- How is the everyday life and what kind of changes can come with it?
- What are networks? What impact can the placement have?
- Role change

Life events

Goals:

- Helping to become aware and understand the child's past experiences and how they affect the child's life
- Helping to understand how grief and loss relate to kinship care
- Helping to understand one's own and child's losses and the feelings associated with them
- Identification of feelings and behaviors associated with losses, means of coping



Education and care

Goals:

Providing information and helping to understand:

- What kind of protection and care this child needs
- What does the child's right to safety mean
- How can an adult build connection and attachment-focused parenting

Co-operation

Goals:

Providing information and helping to understand:

- The different roles of those collaborating on child matters
- What specific issues in kinship placement are related to co-operation
- The importance of maintaining and supporting family relationships and any related loyalty conflicts

Mutual assessment and decision making

- A summary of strenghts and development needs
- Decision
- A plan is made for the future

Kinship care - assessment and training

Family focused training

- Peer experiences



Training in group

PRIDE-training group?

Own group for kinship caregivers?

- Correct timing

No pre-training

Information

The identity of the foster parent

Support

Support

- The specificity of kinship carers is crystallized in affection, love, commitment and care
- Communication with the child's parents is a particular challenge
- There are many emotions associated with placement
- Placements are often sudden, even if one could have expected them
- Cooperation requires respect and empathetic approach
- The families have gone through a crisis. They need special support.
- Peer support and the support of the social worker's is important
- Mentoring, continuing training, work supervision, support family – must be a variety of forms of support that can be chosen to suit the needs of the families

Questions?

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