



Newsletter from the research profile CHILD, based at Jönköping University

#3 2009



Thursday October
15th

CHILD Agenda

October 15th, 1pm
Part time for Stefan Nilsson
at School of Health
Sciences, Jönköping

November 13th
Tobias Edbom is defending
his doctoral dissertation
Child Psychiatry, Karolinska
Institutet

November 24th
ICF Conference with the
Habilitation department,
Landstinget Jönköpings län,
School of Education and
Communication, room
Hc218

December 10th, 1pm
Part time for Marie
Golsäter, School of Health
Sciences



Mats Granlund
speaks at **IHV-**
dagen

Let's meet to play (II)!

Children are different but still share common characteristics, as Mats Granlund so elegantly wrote in the last newsletter, referring to the fact that their every day functioning is dependent on several interdependent factors. True, they all share the same need for transportation.

As a matter of fact it is a prerequisite for most of them to meet to play and learn, in daycare, kindergarten and school. Some 250,000 children, aged 6-16, travel every school day. Local authorities in Sweden have to provide free transportation for a any student with a disability. In Sweden, a crude figure of some 36,000 (14%) of the children in school transportation are disabled in one way or another. Between the years of 1994 and 2001, 361 children were injured or killed in school transportation in Sweden. About 73% of the injured children were injured as vulnerable road users, i.e. as pedestrians, 51 % when running out in front of or behind the bus. Some were injured by their 'own' school bus. The accident rate remains more or less stable over time (last check was based on data from 2007). According to these data, this year will see yet another 2 children dead, 15 with lifelong severe injuries and 85 slightly injured as a result of going to school, i.e. to meet to play and learn. It is a shame that they are neither safe nor feel secure in this every day functioning.

All this sounds just terrible, doesn't it? That is why I am so extremely happy to report that the endless work of traffic safety for all children is now expanded to the European level by the EU-project SAFEWAY2SCHOOL. The project comprises children with disabilities, aiming to provide as safe and secure school transportation for them as for any other child. Please, read more about it if you like, or download the handbook [Åka Säkert](#) (soon the English version will be available on the CHILD homepage). Yet another way to support the mission is simply to buckle up...

[Download Åka Säkert as PDF.](#)

Torbjörn Falkmer
Professor in Occupational Therapy, School of Health Sciences, Jönköping University.

Audio visual research presentations now available



Photo: Gregor Maxwell

Welcome to *IHV-dagen* on November 10th 2009 in Linköping, held by Swedish Institute for Disability Research. The title of the day is "Cross-bordering Disability Research - perspectives and challenges." Mats Granlund will give a general presentation about CHILD.

[Click here for program and more information.](#)



New CHILD researcher: Ann-Katrin Swärd



Ann-Katrin Swärd is associate professor in Special Needs Education at University of Gävle and lives in Sundborn, Dalarna. She defended her doctoral thesis "*Att säkerställa*



Marita Falkmer
Doktorand i handikappvetenskap
Högskolan för Lärande och
Kommunikation i Jönköping

A new link with audio visual research presentations is now released on CHILD website. Marita Falkmer's presentations is already online! [Watch it here.](#)

Margareta Adolfsson reports from Chapel Hill, North Carolina



Our GEDS scholar Margareta Adolfsson, who is placed at UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina, reports again, but this time from [Click on "Läs"](#) to read about her adventure in the States.

[Läs](#) →



Hello Martina Norling..

Who is participating in the research project "*Pre-school as children's language environment*".

What have you done lately?
We have collected data about teachers' language with children in about 60 preschools in mainly the areas of Norrköping, Jönköping and Västerås. We have used the so called CLASS

skriftspråkighet genom medveten arrangering - Wittingmetodens tillämpning i några olika lärandemiljöer" at Stockholm University in 2008. She is specifically interested in reading education and reading comprehension, as well as the school situation for individuals with neuro psychiatric disabilities.

Ann-Katrin Swärd will start working 50 percent in Gävle, to enable to work more in Jönköping.



Check out
Torbjörn Falkmer



Professor Torbjörn Falkmer participates in a film about scientific publications.
[Check it out here.](#)



instrument, where we observe a teacher in 20 minutes, trying to identify and analyse language-enhancing factors. Also we have conducted focus group interviews with the teachers and the teachers have responded on questionnaires where they had to estimate the language environment on their preschool division.

I have heard that through your observations you have found out that the computer is a hot potato in many pre-schools. Can you reveal any other results?

We have seen that many times there exist contradictable opinions. On one hand a teacher can argue that age integrated preschool activities are very good; on the other hand the same teacher can meet the children from another perspective, saying for instance "you are too small for playing with them", or "you don't understand this game" and accordingly the teachers puts a huge responsibility on that child to take the initiative to join a game. Also within outdoor environment there are contradictable attitudes; at some point is outdoor activities being observed as not being language enhancing at all and in the next minute it is being observed as the excellent environment.

What is coming up next?

We will transcribe all our focus groups interviews and submit all the questionnaires.

The project "The pre-school as children's language environment" runs over 3 years and started in 2009. It is funded by the Swedish Research Council and the project involves School of Education and Communication, Mälardalen University and Linköping University. Martina Norling works with Lena Almqvist, Polly Björk-Willén, Sara Hvit and Anette Sandberg, all CHILd researchers.

Accepted and published articles within CHILd

- Kerstin Göransson and Claes Nilholm have published their article "L'education inclusive en Suède: idées, politiques et pratiques. La nouvelle revue de l'adaption et de la scolarisation" in *Hors série no 5, p 67-82. Paris: Institut National Supérieur de formation et de recherche por l'éducation des jeunes handicapés et les enseignements adaptés.*
- Torbjörn Falkmer, together with Anna Sjörs, Britt Larsson, Joakim Dahlman and Björn Gerdle recently got their article "Physiological responses to low-force work and psychosocial stress in women with chronic trapezius myalgia." published in *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.*
- Torbjörn Falkmer, together with Joakim Dahlman, Anna Sjörs, Johan Lindström och Torbjörn Ledin recently got their article "Performance and autonomic responses during motion sickness" published in *Human Factors.*
- Stefan Nilsson and Karin Enskär, together with



Interested in a CHILD work-shop?

CHILD offers work-shops and conferences on a regular basis. Our latest conference was about the classification system ICF and ICF-CY, which has influenced the whole Swedish health care system. Are you interested in attending any work shop held by CHILD? Please contact

mats.granlund@hhj.hj.se or ida.serneberg@hlk.hj.se.



CHILD has new website domains

Note! CHILD has two new website domains:

www.hj.se/forskning/child (Swedish website) and www.hj.se/eng/research/child

(English website). The old addresses still work and direct to the same pages, but the new ones will be easier to remember.

Editorial information

Newsletter #4 will be release around November 15th.

Theme in next newsletter will be the GEDS program

E. Kokinsky, U. Nilsson, B. Sidenvall, recently got their article "School-aged children's experiences of postoperative music medicine on pain, distress and anxiety." accepted in *Pediatric Anesthesia*.

■ Torbjörn Falkmer and Marie Donlau recently got their article "Independence in the toilet activity in children and adolescents with myelomeningocele – managing clean intermittent catheterization in a hospital setting" published in *Acta Paediatr.* 2009 Jul 13.

■ Maria Karlsson has published her article "Qualification des pédagogues: l'importance de la qualité dans les services préscolaires" in *La nouvelle revue de l'adapction et de la scolarisation*, n 46 (2), p 51-57. Paris: Institut national supérieur de formation et de recherche pour l'éducation des jeunes handicapés et les senseignements adaptés.

■ Kerstin Göransson has published her article L'inclusion: différentes perspectives, différentes significations. *La nouvelle revue de l'adapction et de la scolarisation*, n 46 (2), p 11-16. Paris: Institut national supérieur de formation et de recherche pour l'éducation des jeunes handicapés et les senseignements adaptés.

■ Kerstin Göransson and Claes Nilholm recently got their article "Inclusive education in Sweden? - a critical analysis" accepted in *International Journal of Inclusive Education*. (Inclusive education in Sweden: Ideas, policies and practices. s 83-98.)

■ Torbjörn Falkmer, together with Anna Anund, Linda Renner and Nina Waara recently got their report "Smartare Säkrare Skolbuss: Ett pilotförsök i Kristianstad" published.

■ Claes Nilholm and Kerstin Göransson have written a debate article, which will be published in next issue of "Pedagogisk forskning i Sverige". The title of the article is "Om smygrepresentativitet i pedagogiska avhandlingar".

Received fundings within CHILD

■ Five CHILD researchers have received grants from Sunnerdahl Handikappsfond: Margareta Adolfsson received 220 000 SEK; Stefan Nilsson received 220 000 SEK; Mats Granlund and Gregor Maxwell received 220 000 SEK; and Gunnel Janeslätt received 120 000 SEK.

■ Nina Ibragimova received 100 000 SEK from Norrbacka - Eugeniastiftelse for the project "Individuell habiliteringsplanering och insatser till barn med funktionshinder och deras familjer enligt modellen i WHO:s ICF-CY". Regina Ylvén received 75 000 SEK from the same foundation.

CHILD appearance at international conferences

■ Eva Björck-Åkesson, Mats Granlund and Gregor Maxwell will be participating in MURINET training course on ICF, Children and Education in Zurich, Switzerland on

and its opportunities.

For further information do not hesitate to contact research coordinator [Ida Serneberg](#).



November 19th til November 22nd 2009.

- ❗ Frida Lygnegård will be giving a presentation at the conference "*A global status quo on Cerebral Palsy, With a view to the future*" in Netherlands between November 5th and 7th 2009.
- ❗ Karina Huus will be presenting her poster "Healthy children, physical activity and the relation to blood glucose, c-peptide and BMI" at 20 th World Diabetes Congress Montreal, Canada between October 18th and 22nd 2009. 18/10-22/10-2009.
- ❗ Kerstin Göransson, Agneta Luttröpp and Maria Karlsson gave presentations during the conference Equality and Diversity Inclusive Early Education at University of Siegen between September 17th and 18th 2009. The conference was the final conclusion of the European prComenius procect ECEIS: Early Childhood Education in Inclusive Settings.
- ❗ Ann-Katrin Swärd presented her doctoral thesis in Vienna during the EERA/EACR conference in Vienna in October 2009.

CHILD EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER #3 2009

This newsletter was issued by School of Education and Communication, Jönköping University.
Editor: [Ida Serneberg](#)



Newsletter from the research profile CHILD, based at Jönköping University

Margareta Adolfsson reports from Center of Discovery, New York

Hi,

My second report from “over here” will not be from Chapel Hill but from the Center of Discovery in New York state. Together with Professor Rune Simeonsson, I had the privilege to visit the center for two days in the middle of September.

The center, founded in 1948 by Janet and Gerard Carrus, is described as “a private agency dedicated to providing nurturing, supportive, healthy and accessible environments for people with disabilities”. It is built up as a widespread village with school buildings, health center, farm, bakery, riding arena, residential etc. It is an organic foundation led by president Dr Patrick Lollard.

236 children and as many adults study or work at the center. 50% of the children have autism and 50% physical disabilities. A paradigm shift during the last years made professionals specialize on programs for a certain group of children instead of working with a diverse group. 119 children live in residential with 6-16 children. After opened new houses for children with autism in October, they hope to have only 6 children in each group home.



The center strives for “increased independence and improved interpersonal abilities for each person”. Every activity is said to “be powered by a spirit of exploration that asks: What can we help someone accomplish today?” This philosophy was present in all their work and all their narratives about the work.

There were 19 class rooms on “medical side” and a few more on “autism side”. Children came from 85 school districts in the state and also from surrounding states. The school districts shared the costs for the child with federal and private insurances. The costs for residential placement is 180,000 USD/year compared to 50,000 USD for private day school and half of that for public school. To make the resources available for more children and to reduce the costs, the next step will be to create programs for integrated assessment. It means that children stay at the center 30, 60, or 90 days to get intervention, education, and a thorough assessment after which they go back to home and public school. The schools will by then have valuable information about the student.

You can find information about the center at www.thecenterfordiscovery.org.

The center arranged a one day conference about autism for superintendents from the school districts, politicians and staff. They talked about a "Pandemin" or an "on-coming tsunami of autism". The prevalence had increased from 1:1000 children to 1:150 in the last six years. One of the speakers at the conference, dr. Mark Hyman, worked in the field of functional medicine. Functional medicine is defined as "treating the underlying biological cause of disease instead of managing or masking symptoms". He asserted that autism spectrum disorder is not a fixed genetic disorder and that it can be effectively treated, or even reversed. With reference to his book, *The UltraMind Solution* (2009), he described the cause of the "pandemin" as a chemical imbalance, nutrient depleted diet, toxic environment, unremitting stress, and immune/inflammatory triggers. Because of this, he strongly recommended medical treatment in addition to cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). However, he asked for a map to navigate in the biological systems.



During the final panel debate, experts – among them Rune Simeonsson, talked about the situation in five years. Patrick Lollard expected improved knowledge about interactions between different toxins that trigger the issue. The panel discussed the treatment of pain for children with autism. The pain is hard to localize and hard to treat. They agreed on the need to develop an integrated, comprehensive, holistic assessment program for children with autism. Since they saw a current evaluation gap and between school districts and the experts at the center, they expressed hopes for a facilitated transition from the center back to home school. It required professionals speaking the same language. In addition, treatment strategies had to be formed before the children were sent out to home school.

At the conference, the Center of Discovery was talked about as The Center of Possibility. It included possibility for healing, for families, and for hope. An unlike possibility was also expressed: that the center in the future will not be needed.

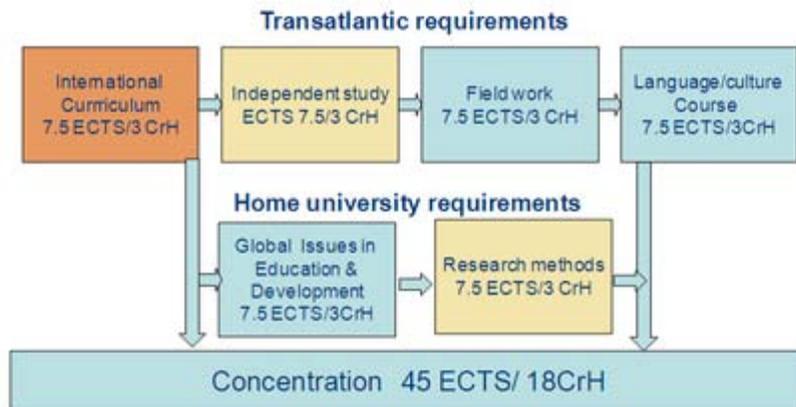
Our arrival to the airport in Newburgh, New York state, was kind of a chock. Coming from the late summer in North Carolina with nice, warm weather (20-28oC during the days) we met another season with chilly weather. The conference was held in the riding arena. My "summer-nice-clothing" was not warm enough but the nice arrangements and decorations made me forget about it. They had covered the floor with plywood and used bales of straw, squash, corn plants, and mums for decoration. Very nice. On the picture, you can see a clever way to cover over the platform for lifting people up on the horses.

During the weeks after the conference, I have been engaged in assigning my 3rd study to an ethical review. I wish to collect opinions from students and staff on the concepts Activity, Participation, and Everyday Life Situation. A questionnaire without sensitive personal data will be used. Even if my research method do not aim to influence the research persons physically or mentally, an ethical review by the Institution Review Board (IRB) is required as well as a web-based ethical course. Initially, I tried to apply

for "exempt from continuing review", but this is not enough when it is about "research". The application form to seek initial IRB approval for a research study contains 14 pages. However, the questions are not too complicated and I hope the board will find my study including only "minimal risk to subjects". This will allow an expedited IRB review, meaning that the full board do not need to discuss the application but a single expert can make the decision.

As you see, a visiting scholar makes many different experiences. I do not regret for a second that I adopted this challenge!

Regards from
Margareta Adolfsson



GEDS program overview

[← Tillbaka](#)

CHILD EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER #3 2009

This newsletter was issued by School of Education and Communication, Jönköping University.

Editor: [Ida Serneberg](#)