



# Research-project "Brainways in preschool"

Research-collaboration between Stockholm University and the municipality preschools in Nacka

The project is performed 2015-2018 and financed from the National Research Council

[www.buv.su.se/hjarnvagar](http://www.buv.su.se/hjarnvagar)

April 2016





## Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Your preschool is in a research-collaboration with Stockholm University during the years 2016 and 2017. The aim of this study is to evaluate two commonly used pedagogical methods in Swedish preschools: *investigative group-learning* and *individual learning with digital software*. The study engages four and five-year-olds and their staff at your preschool.

The researchers are all from different disciplines at Stockholm University: pedagogy, didactics, linguistics, psychology and cognitive neuroscience. Together we want to find out more about how these different methods work and what skills children develop better with different methods. We hope to produce new knowledge that might help all children develop in the best possible ways.

The study is a *intervention study* and entails education of staff before they perform focused work with the methods taught to them together with the children during a six week period. The results are compared with the control-groups. The various groups of children are randomized to the two interventions or controls. In order to know the skills the children have developed, we will perform some tests before and after the intervention period. These are playful tests that measure for example language-skills, attention and socio-emotional skills.

### What happens at the preschool from the autumn of 2016?

The children and staff will take part in different exciting and transformative work during the project, irrespective of what group they are randomized to. Staff get in-service-training to be able to perform the intervention methodologies. The control-groups will go on with their regular work but staff here will also learn new ways of evaluating their services, which might also have long term effects.





The researchers and other educated staff hired by the university will work at the preschools with the children and staff during a ten week period. Some will perform the tests, others will educate and supervise the staff, and others yet will do ethnographic observations and video-tapings of the everyday practices. This provides good data for other kinds of analysis than the tests themselves, but also data to check for validity and evaluation of the practices.

A couple of the researchers will also perform focus-talks with staff on their experiences of being part of the research. We also want to know how the children themselves experience being part of a research-project and how they understand what research might be.

The study has been approved by the Regional Board of Ethics at Karolinska Institutet [www.epn.se](http://www.epn.se) and work according to research ethics for research with children under the age of 18. Our data will be securely stored. We adopt all possible measures to keep the data fully anonymous and confidential. The data is only analyzed by researchers with a PhD or doctoral students under contract. The children are continuously asked for consent to participate in the various activities. The results will only be presented at the group level, and no individual child, group or preschool can be identified.

### **Voluntary participation and consent from parents/caregivers**

In order for us to perform this research, we need informed consent from *both* parents/caregivers of each child. We need for you to fill in the informed consent-form and tick *either* the YES or NO box, sign the form, and return it to the person in the staff responsible for collecting the forms. We need the forms by *September 1st*. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us!

***Welcome to join your research project at your preschool!***





## Brainways in preschool - this is us!



Sofia Frankenberg



Hillevi Lenz Taguchi



Tove Gerholm



Susanne Kjällander



Anna Palmer



Petter Kallioinen



Linnea Bodén



Teresa Elkin Postila



Signe Tonér

### Web address

[www.buv.su.se/hjarnvagar](http://www.buv.su.se/hjarnvagar)

### Contact

Professor Hillevi Lenz Taguchi

[hjarnvagar.buv@su.se](mailto:hjarnvagar.buv@su.se)

08-1207 6382



Stockholm  
University

