

COVID BREAKS THE RULES OF PARENTING

Parents need to take a stronger role in educating children

More than one and a half billion children are affected by school closures

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, 191 countries have implemented countrywide school closures, affecting 1.6 billion learners worldwide (1). In Finland, one of the leading educational countries, and the happiest country in the world, no teaching related mass events will be organized, social distancing rules will be observed, and people are advised to avoid contact (2).

A majority of parents find homeschooling "stressful and challenging" during the pandemic

With children currently not able to study in classrooms, the importance of learning at home is amplified and the task of supporting children's learning has fallen on parents at a much larger rate. This is a significant burden for parents. Many parents say that they lack the skills to effectively teach and supervise their children.

Can COVID-19 lead to something good?

Children tend to be adaptable. Quarantine itself is not necessarily causing harm or depriving kids of what they need. There is much to be gained from interactions with parents, siblings and even pets. Time alone is valuable, too.



New thinking and more action is needed from parents

The new situation has invited new thinking and solutions in Finland, the country famed for excellence in education and being the happiest country in the world. (3,4)

In many cases parents have been overwhelmed with remote learning requirements in Finland, too. Two education solution companies, Futurecode (www.futurecode.fi) and TinyApp (www.tinyapp.biz), decided to take action and address these global challenges through creating a new practical online course to support and guide parents.

Pia Solatie, one of the founders of "Positive Parenting from Finland" explains: "Transversal skills have for quite some time had a major role in curriculums for both early childhood and primary schools. Now, during COVID-19 pandemic, we see the shift in the responsibility of teaching these crucial future skills from professionals at kindergartens and schools to parents at home."

Marjo Paappanen, a Helsinki school teacher, and pedagogical expert in the team behind the course says: "In Finland we feel that now is not necessarily the time for lectures about the importance of social skills, but instead it is time for playful learning moments".

Parents across the world can now learn what Finns do differently. Which are the secrets that make their children happy and show outstanding academic results on a global scale? 30 online audio course chapters bring light to the topics of emotional wellbeing, social skills, friendship, cooperation and creativity. For more information, please see: www.futurecode.fi

SOURCES

(1) <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/1091-parental-engagement-in-childrens-learning.html>

(2) <https://teaching.helsinki.fi/instructions/article/effect-coronavirus-teaching>

(3) <https://worldhappiness.report/ed/2020/>

(4) <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/how-does-finland-s-top-ranking-education-system-work>

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