

Local summit: Contemporary Issues in Education in Multicultural North

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Culture-conscious language teaching

- How children learn Sámi in a Sámi language nest?

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This presentation presents the early childhood education sector, located in the Sámi language immersion examine the specific characteristics of the dissertation research aimed at. This presentation is based on my doctoral thesis on the implementation of a Sámi language nest completed in 2016. The study describes the practices of Sámi language immersion in the language nest and how children's Sámi language usage was supported and revitalized in the practices of the nest and in the teaching and interaction situations. Based on the research results, I created a model for language nest pedagogy based on Sámi culture, revitalization of the Sámi language, language acquisition and Sami education. The purpose of this presentation is to provide knowledge about how the Sami language immersion is carried out, what conditions it needs to operate and how does children learn sámi in a sámi language nests and the special features of language nest pedagogy. A language nest is a child care place of under-school-age children where they learn the Sámi language through a language immersion method. According to the language nest pedagogy, children learn Sámi language in the language classrooms, including in the morning circle, through songs and play, and through routines. Of particular importance are activities in the Sámi culture through which children learn the language, phrases and words of the culture. These include being at teepee, watching nature and weather, watching animals, working with reindeer, and doing Sámi handicrafts. Sámi language revitalization implementation review is socially timely research topic. All in Finland spoken three sámi languages are endangered and urgent recovery measures target.

