ALLiES: Teachers’ And Parents’ Alliance For Early Violence Prevention In Preschool

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ALLiES is an international two-year (2010-2012) research and development project, aims to develop caring, community-based measures to prevent school violence. During the project a holistic measure based on caring, equity and positive, active non-violence will be developed especially for 5 to 7 year old children, together with pedagogical experts, parents and other professionals. On the basis of the preliminary results of holistic measure to prevent violence, we argue that the intervention in violence requires at least a consideration of the following:

- Pedagogical, gender sensitive classroom practices based on positive, active non-violence and communication
- Prevention not only at a classroom level, but at a structural level, involving for instance:
  - Staff commitment in supporting the construction of an ethos of equity and communality in the community (daycare/schools/after-school clubs)
  - Joint responsibility and co-operation among staff in educating and raising the children
  - Co-operation with parents; special attention should be paid to the increasing participation of fathers
  - Making room for “fairpower” instead of “fearpower” in the community (see Manninen et al. 2010)
  - The deconstruction of hierarchical, gendered status systems and structures
  - Effective practical tools for recognizing and intervening into violence and bullying for teachers, parents and health care professional
  - Attention to issues of violence prevention in teacher education and in-service education
  - Increasing the awareness of staff, children and parents concerning the issues mentioned above and their involvement in developing positive, active non-violent communality