

Focused examinations in school health services

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Presentation outline

- Background
- Case study
- Suggestions
- Conclusions



Health nurses' screening in schools

- all children at all primary school grades
- annually



Medical doctors' screening in schools Finland

- extensive health check-ups to all primary school children at grades 1, 5 and 8
- the wellbeing of the whole family



What else do school doctors do?

- focused examinations of certain problems at other grades
- cooperate with other school personnel
- take part in a pupil welfare group seldom (in special cases)

School doctors in Helsinki

- dedicated school doctors are each responsible for several schools where the appointments take place at

Case study

- in fall 2014
- 4 of the total 151 primary schools in Helsinki were without an assigned school doctor
- a temporary school doctor's office was set up at a health care centre
- to provide school doctors' services to the 4 schools







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17 families scheduled an appointment time

- many patients had both psychiatric and somatic problems
- 6 were referred to a specialist (5 psychiatry, 1 otology)
- 4 were referred to a school psychologist
- 2 were referred to child welfare
- 1 no-show

Average time needed per patient

- 2h 10min, including back-office work

Advantages

- no interruptions by other pupils
- families were motivated to show up because of specific problems
- the premises were well suited for the work

Disadvantages

- cooperation with other school personnel required extra effort

Suggestions

- some families would benefit from appointments in better premises than what schools can offer
- it is important that the school doctor knows the school personnel
- how would school doctors' expertise be utilized most effectively?

1. Less general screening

2. More time for focused examinations

- at all grades, if there is worry from
 - patient,
 - parent or
 - school personnel



3. More time for collaboration

- with
 - school personnel and
 - co-workers

Further research and discussion is needed

Thank you

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- for comments on these questions

