



What Do We Want For Our Children?

Klostermarksskolen Roskilde, Denmark

Some Important Questions

What do we want for our children? How can we get our children to understand and learn? How they can get along with friends, family, school, leisure and spare time while achieving their goals? How can we help them experience greater self-satisfaction, greater self-esteem, and a sense of integrity?

What can schools do to help students' learning and understanding of their own responsibilities, their own contributions and their own influence on their situation? And, finally, how can the school take on this task when there is already so much on the schools' plate?

In Denmark we experience many problems with student anxiety, well-being, bullying, and a lack of learning in our schools. All stakeholders - students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and local governments have for several years advocated improvements and worked to change this trend. In January 2010 the national

government announced a vision of having a world-class public school system by 2020! The vision was based on best practices while recognizing current budget limitations.

Based on the experiences and results that FranklinCovey has achieved in other countries with *The 7 Habits* for schools—schools with similar challenges and starting points as in Denmark, and schools where parents had the same desires for their children to progress as we do in Denmark—we, at FranklinCovey Denmark, had long yearned to develop cooperation with a Danish school so that *The 7 Habits* could be implemented.

First Danish School – A Convent Field School (Klostermarksskolen) in Roskilde

In 2008 we were fortunate to have the opportunity for such cooperation with Klostermarksskolen in Roskilde. The school's Headmaster, Ib Gerner Christensen, immediately recognized an opportunity to use *The 7 Habits* as a

tool to create a common foundation and framework for the school and to increase the school's targeted effort to live up to its school mission statement.

Klostermarksskolen is working with *The 7 Habits* because the school leaders believe:

1. That the Habits can be a working method that can create a framework for increased student self-awareness, student confidence in their own abilities, and improved capacity to decide and act;
2. That the Habits could be a development model that would focus on developing students' capacity for self-management and taking on responsibility for their own situation while learning and interacting with others;
3. That the Habits can be a collaborative tool that can support the school and parents as they cooperate on student learning and development.

It was Headmaster Ib Gerner Christensen's wish that "these principles would remain in the students' minds so they could take them out and use them as a tool in their educational and personal life."



Goals and Method of *The 7 Habits* Project

Klostermarksskolen wanted a tool that would:

- Help ensure that the school would be a school for both the brain and the heart;
- Give students a good foundation for their further training and development, including being aware of their own strengths and developing self esteem and self-management skills;
- Equip and encourage students to be even better project-oriented work, especially students in the oldest grades where project-oriented work is common;

- Strengthen students' ability to make choices e.g., choices related to the transition from primary to secondary education;
- Increase students' awareness about their work habits and school-related studying techniques;
- Create better communication in schools with a place and respect for all.

For its part, FranklinCovey nordic approach would:

- Apply to Klostermarksskolen the successes experienced by students, teachers, headmasters, and parents of other schools around the world;
- Develop Danish student materials along with a teachers guide.

In the autumn of 2008, collaboration between Klostermarksskolen and FranklinCovey nordic approach began. The school staff underwent training and also certified five facilitators so the school itself could disseminate and introduce *The 7 Habits* to colleagues and students.

Results

Teachers: All teachers, after-hours staff and administrative staff at Klostermarksskolen have completed a 20-hour course in *The 7 Habits* for schools. Here is what the teachers say about it:

The Habit of being proactive has really taken hold in me. I try not to speculate and worry about things over which I do not have influence. I choose to make the best of the situation (I try that at least).

Line Jakobi Østoft--Teacher

The weekly planning based on the teacher's hours/calendar chart gave me a greater focus on moving forward rather than just practicing daily "fire extinguishing."

Inge Boje Bruun--Teacher

Students: Ninth grade students in 3 classes were introduced to *The 7 Habits*. The first class did a 1-day crash course focused on their project assignment. The second class did a 20-hour course in order to learn to take responsibility for making the most of their final year in primary school and raising the quality of their project work. The third class went through the full cycle, giving the facilitators a chance to test the Danish version of the teaching materials. In addition, two 8th grade classes tried out the materials.

Teaching materials for the other grades are slowly being introduced. By turn of the year 2010/11 we had prepared teaching materials in Danish for the oldest age groups. Those materials included a teaching guide, videos, and student presentation material.

Here is what the students said about the course:

The 7 Habits have changed my life in a good way.
Jacob--Student

It is a fantastic course that helps or has helped everyone who has taken it and will take it.
Mustafa--Student

I learned that many of the bad habits we have can be changed. But you have to want it.
Kassandra--Student

Additional Results for the period January 2009 to June 2010

The certified teachers are experiencing clear results in the following areas:

1. Students are aware of and actively using the first three habits, which is about taking responsibility, having the end in mind and planning accordingly.
2. Students are taking greater responsibility for planning on a weekly basis, balancing school and leisure activities, and prioritizing their homework, as evidenced by more on-time homework completion.
3. Students also show a greater desire for self-learning and have a positive approach to receiving education and learning.
4. They also can see the goal of teaching in relation to their future, and several student have used the course as a springboard for thinking about their futures.
5. Students have strengthened self-esteem and leadership as evidenced by their ability to solve puzzles and by doing their homework on time. They learn to utilize their own strengths and address weaknesses in the planning of what they should and want to reach.
6. Students have greater satisfaction among themselves as evidenced by less bullying and greater respect for each other.

Teachers report that the greater sense of responsibility and self-learning is leading to increased respect and recognition of differences between students.

The 7 Habits-certified teachers are experiencing a reduction in time spent on the following areas:

1. Well-being of students as evidenced by:

- Fewer requests from parents with problem pupils;
- More students are better able to resolve conflicts themselves;
- Greater harmony with room for differences and children with special needs

2. Self-discipline, as evidenced by students submitting assignments on time.



Future of *The 7 Habits* at Klostermarksskolen

The development project is now in a phase in which the school hopes to roll out the principles to other grade levels, both the primary school and the middle school, and to work in appropriate ways to do this and to set targets and benchmarks for the project. The school finds it is moving in a positive direction with *The 7 Habits* and feels well prepared for the future. ■

FranklinCovey nordic approach er den danske del af en af verdens førende konsulentvirksomheder. Vi hjælper virksomheder og medarbejdere til målbart at øge effektivitet og handlekraft ved at integrere viden, metoder og værktøjer fra bl.a. De 7 Gode Vaner®, Focus for Outlook®, 8. Vane Lederskab®, De 4 Eksekverings-Discipliner® og Hjælp din Kunde til Succes®.

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Tuborg Boulevard 12 • DK--2900 Hellerup
70 22 66 12 • info@franklincovey.dk
www.franklincovey.dk*