

# **FLEXid**

## **- a project for multicultural kids in Larvik municipality**

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# Larvik municipality

- 42.412 residents
- 4323 with a migrant background
- About 90 nationalities
- The immigrants keep up the population

# The FLEXid project

- FLEXid: Flexible identity
- The project startet i 2001
- Inspired by the book *Third Culture Kids* by David Pollock and Ruth van Reken
  - The book defined the reality of children of missionaries and other westerners working abroad

# FLEXid about the program

The most important reason for any multicultural kid to go through the program FLEXid offers, is to boost their sense of who they are, become more confident in how to use their special knowledge, skills and experiences, and feel encouraged to reflect all the diversity of their identity instead of choosing one part over another.

# More than a personal process

“FLEXid also offers an education of cross-cultural skills, communication and integration that we hope will lead to better co-existence between diverse groups in schools and communities. It is our aim to prevent potential conflict between generations, and help kids and parents resolve often painful differences and challenges that follow culture-shifts and clash between values, beliefs and traditions.”

# The program

- Normally the kids follow the program for two years
- Girls and boys have separate groups
- The first year has a group focus
- The second year focus on each individual

# Six themes each year

- Year one:
  - Identity and belonging
  - Multicultural resources – and how to build bridges
  - Leaving one country, coming to another
  - Prejudice and racism
  - Girls and boys
  - Roles and expectations



# Six themes..

- Year two:
  - Own background and history
  - Language and emotions
  - Me meeting others
  - Girls and boys - prejudice, choices and future
  - Dilemmas and choices in a multicultural society
  - That's typical - about generalization

