

The background is a solid teal color. There are faint, semi-transparent silhouettes of hands reaching towards each other, one on the left and one on the right, positioned behind the text.

Leif Nord

Manager, psychologist

Child and Youth Center, habilitation

Denmark

- 1000 children/families
- 5 departments
- 75 employees

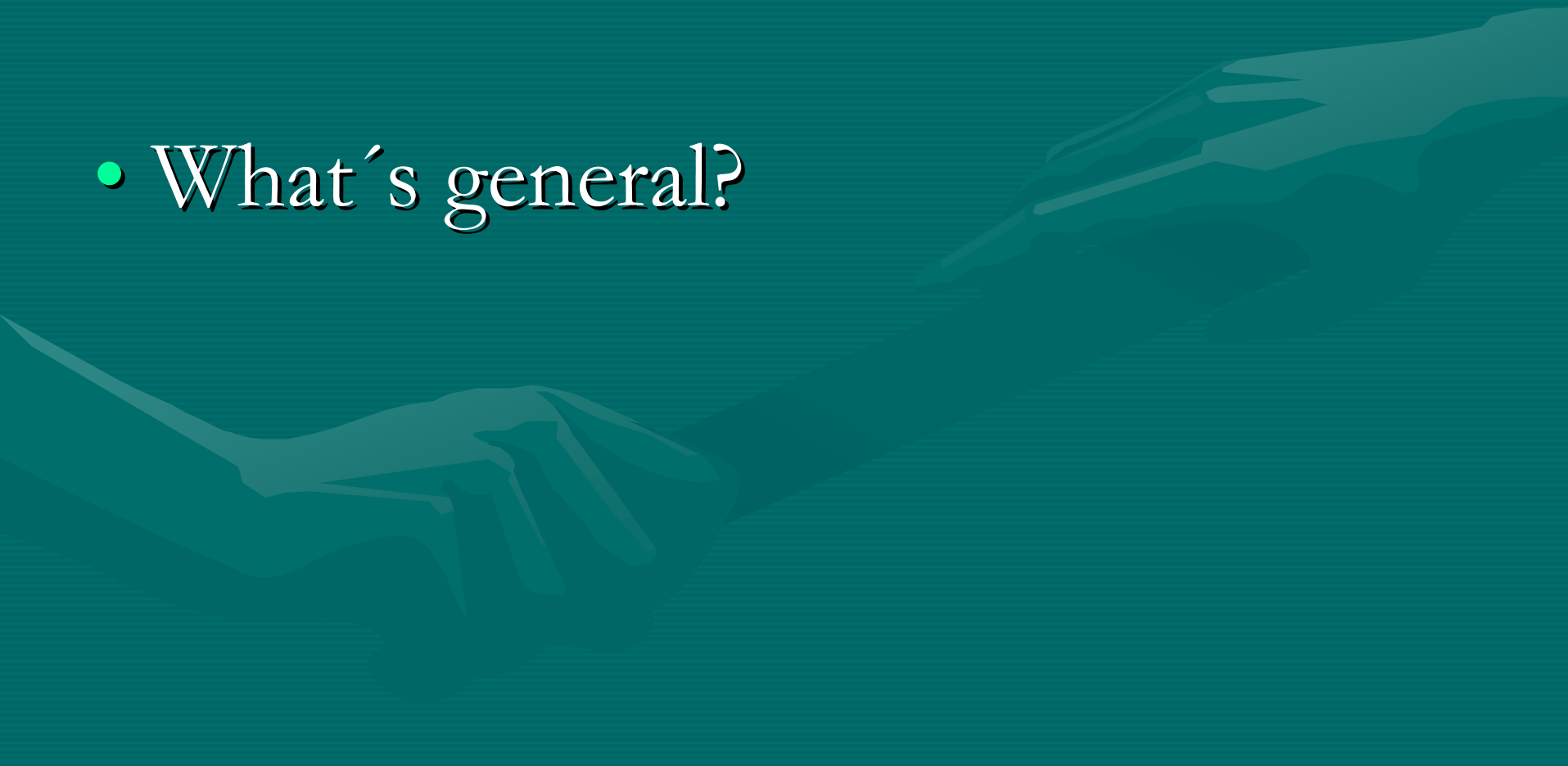
- Fysiotherapists
- Ergotherapists
- Special educators
- Music therapists
- Psychologists
- Neuropediatrisians
- Adminitrative staff



- Knowledge
- Fitness
- Collaboration
- Planning



- What's special?
- What's general?



- Fathers of children with disabilities
- Invisible?
- Ignored?
- Google august 2008: 519.000 hits!
- Mothers of children with disabilities:
726.000 hits!

- Hornby. NSW, Australia
- Problems and concerns
- Feelings of selfblame
- Denial of the extent of the disability
- Effects on their marriage
- Diffuculty telling other people about it
- Feeling guilty sabout having negative feelings about their child
- Negative experiences of service provision

- Hey Dad.....Defferent Dads NSW
- Service systems focus heavily on mothers
- No after hour or weekend support
- Communication is directed to the mother
- Difficult to speak openly about feelings and concerns
- Does not speak openly when wife is present
- Few confidants

- Father in Hey Dad:
- The single greatest challenge I faced as a father to a child with a disability was trying to accept the reality that i cannot "fix" the "problem".
- The feeling is: "Not only does my child have a disability.but I'm useless, helpless, etc because i could not stop it and now i can't do anything to fix it either"

• Fathers: The Secondary Partner, a UK study

- The disclosure could have been handled better
- They had been given too much information
- The content of the information had been negative and predictive
- Professionals had treated them 'differently' and issued warnings of the negative effects the child would have on the family
- Additional information was difficult to access
- Initial contacts with other families did not have the desired effects
- Fathers returned to work quickly – 'keep a sense of realities in their lives'
- Fathers felt their role was to support their wives
- Professional contacts were made with the mother during the day
- No-one had spoken to the fathers about the reactions before these interviews

• Herbert and Carpenter (1997)

- Andreas Fröhlich, Universität Lindau, Germany
 - "Die Einsamkeit des Vater-Seins"
 - The Loneliness of Being a Father
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- Escape
 - Banishing
 - E 412, stabilizer







- Dissociation?
- Escape?

- Banishing
- Guilt
- Responsibility
- Overresponsibility
- Do it my way!
- Martyr

- RECOMMENDATIONS I
- SERVICE NOT ONLY 9-5
- ILLUSTRATIONS OF FATHERS AND CHILDREN IN PAMPHLETS
- SUPPORT ROUGH AND DIRTY PLAYING
- AS PART OF THE TRAINING
- "MASCULINE FURNISHING" IN WAITING ROOM ETC. (FOOTBALL-GAME, MAGAZINES ABOUT CARS, COMPUTERS)

- RECOMMENDATIONS II
- PRACTITIONERS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GENDER DIFFERENCES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED STEREOTYPES
- ENGAGE FATHERS IN GOAL-SETTING
- AND IN COMPUTER-ASSISTED AIDS

GROUPS FOR FATHERS

- ONLY MEN AND 1 MALE PROFESSIONAL
- 6 EVENINGS, 2½ HOUR
- 5-8 FATHERS
- REFERRAL FROM.....MOTHERS!
- INCLUDE, EXCLUDE

GROUPS FOR FATHERS II

- ”fantastic to meet other dads experiencing simular issue and feeling”
- ” it was very interesting meeting different fathers wwith children that have different disabilities but have the same concerns”
- ” I liked most the opportunity to discuss issues as fathers, with fathers only. I was more open and honest then when in an environment in which my wife and other women were present

GROUPS FOR FATHERS III

- ” I felt this is af very usefull way to understand and realise I’m not alone in what I’m goint through and it’s a great way to get things off my chest”
- ”It more reinforced things for me. I think er do pretty well..But it was good to have reinforcement”
- ”To new dads: ”Dont worry, be alert and not alarmed”

Groups for fathers IV

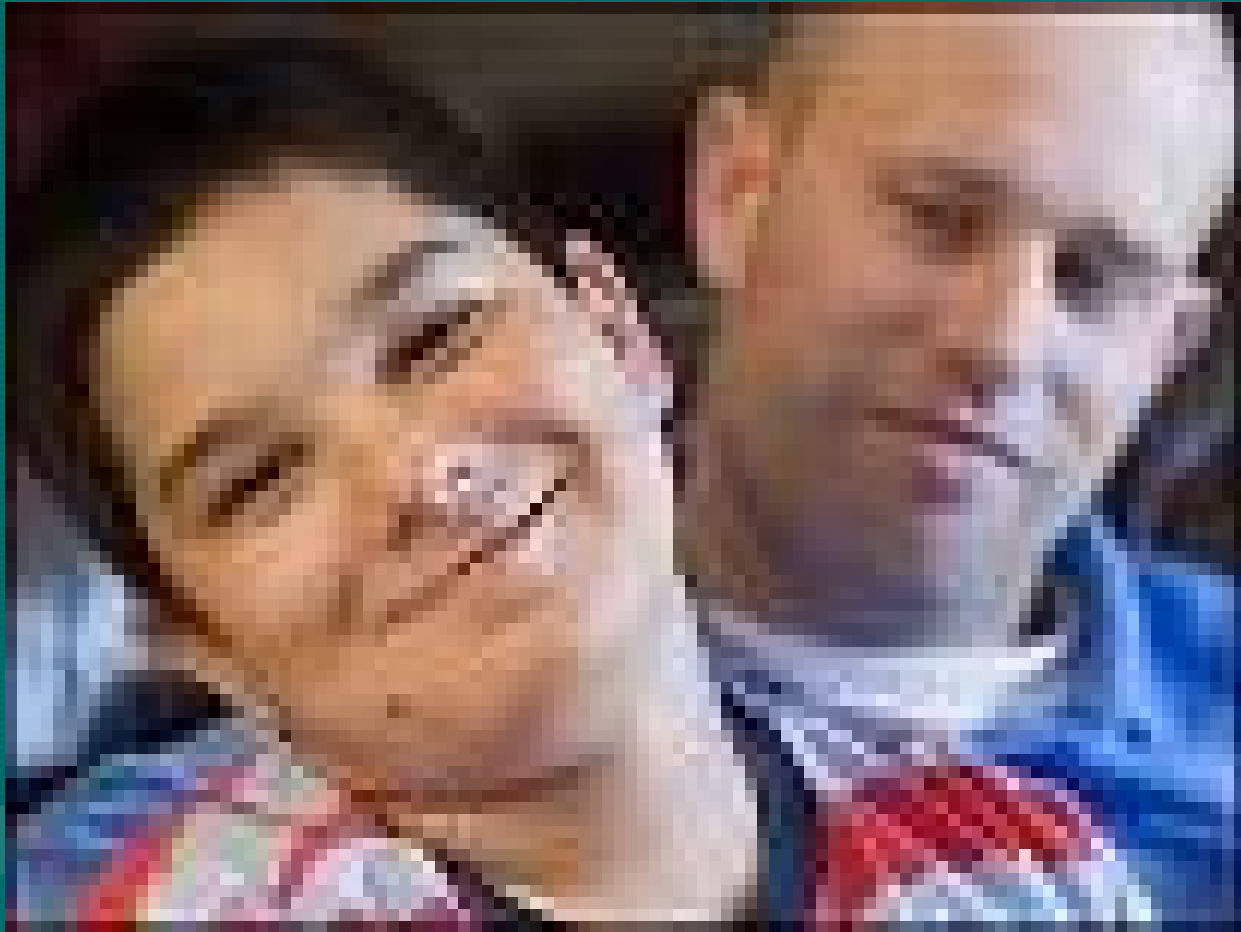
- "I have realised we have to take care of ourselves. If we can't look after ourself, we cant look after our child, our partner or our family. ...That is why it is good to have a place like this to talk, without fear of retribution....The first time I started to feel better was when i started to ask for help"

Groups for fathers III

- ”







- Thank you for listening!!!



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