



Pedagogical/psychological Agency

Norway's formal system for assessment and counselling for special needs education

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[The Education Act]

§5-6 Educational and psychological counselling service

Each municipality and county authority in Norway shall provide an educational and psychological counselling service. The service in a municipality can be organized in cooperation with other municipalities or with the county authority.

The service shall assist the school in work on organizational development and development of expertise in order to improve the adaptation of instruction for pupils with special needs. The educational and psychological counselling service shall ensure that expert assessments are prepared where this is required by the Act.

The Act also states that children under compulsory school age with specific need for special education have a right to such assistance. (§5-7)

[PPT- for Haugesund, Sveio and Utsira]

- Cooperation between 3 municipalities
- Haugesund – 33 000 inhabitants
- Sveio – 4 700 inhabitants
- Utsira – 417 inhabitants

PPT for Haugesund, Sveio and Utsira

- 12 employees
- 3 pshychologists
- 6 teachers/preschool teachers with various degrees in special education
- 1 social worker – degree in family therapy
- 1 teacher – specialist in hearing problems
- 1 adm secretary

[Key figures]

- Referrals
2007
- Total: 308
- 0-6: 133 - 37,9 %

- Referrals
2007/2008
- Total: 350
- 0-6: 176 – 50,3 %


[Key figures]


- 2007/2008
 - 48 children 0-2 years
 - 105 children 3-5 years
 - 23 children 6 years
- Preschool children – with help
 - 2007/2008
 - In Haugesund 91 children (teacher)



Long time focus on early intervention

- to help children with difficulties
- to prevent the development of secondary problems

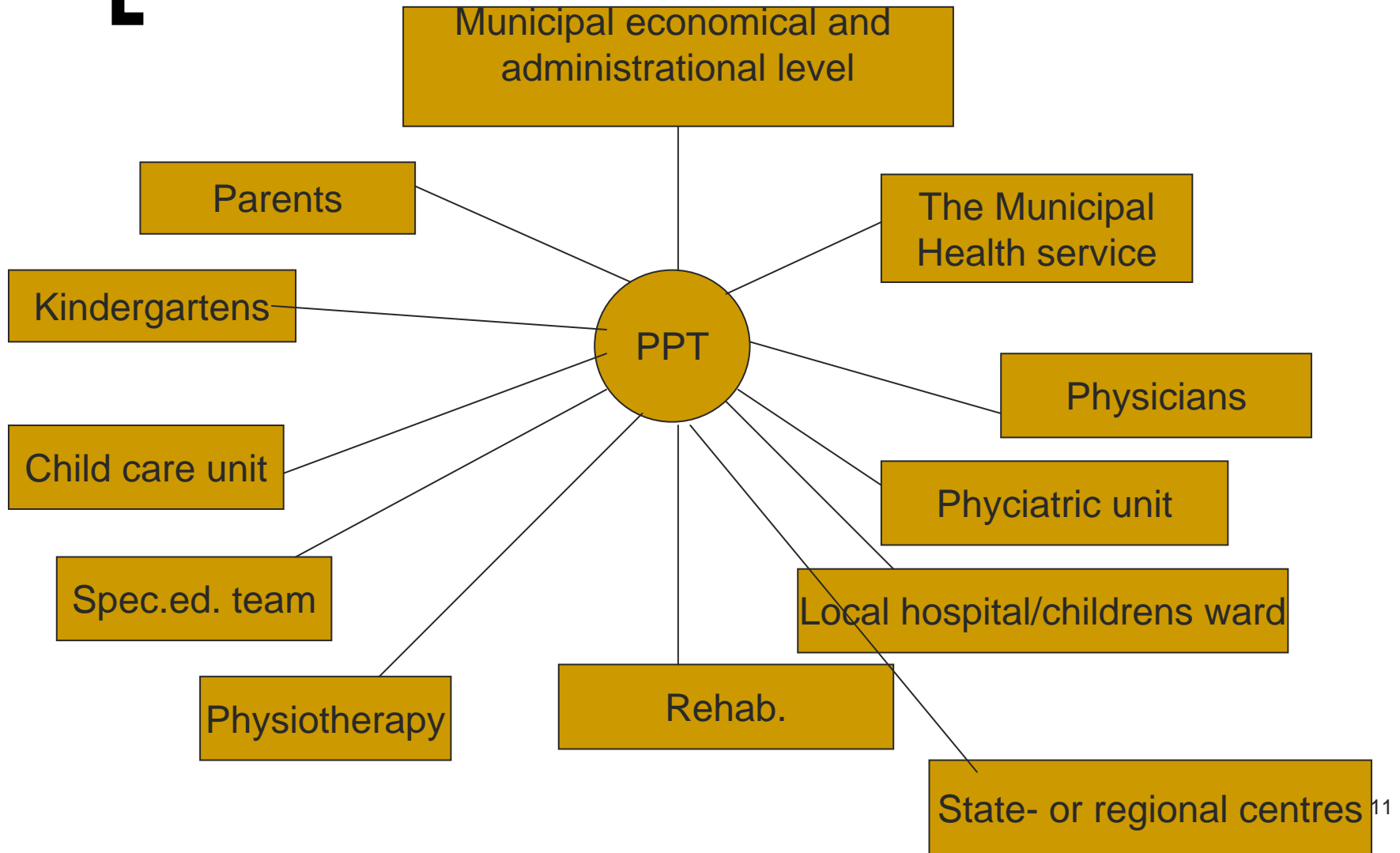
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- A large black left square bracket and a large yellow right square bracket are positioned at the top of the slide, with a horizontal line in between. The line is light green on the left and fades to white on the right.
- School is compulsory
 - Long time tradition - focus on school age children
 - "Pupils who either do not or are unable to benefit satisfactorily from ordinary instruction have a right to special education" (Education Act §5-1)

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- Individual level – assessment and guidance
 - Standard demands to try different methods
 - Increase the school's expertise and knowledge
 - System level
 - Increase the school's expertise to improve the adaption of instruction

[How to make a change?]

- The role of the head of the office
- Work towards the system
- Sveio – children's language development
- Guidance to other neighbouring communities in early detecting and intervention 0-2 years

Whom do we cooperate with?



[Referrals]

- Parents
- The local health service
- Kindergartens
- Local hospital or physicians

[Administrative procedure]

- Referrals
- Expert assessments
 - Talks with the parents
 - Observations
 - At home
 - In kindergarten
 - In therapy room
 - Formal testing
 - Recommendation

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■ Recommendations


- Day care centres
- Special training
- Assistant
- Coop. with physiotherapist
- Coop. with speech therapist
- Parental guidance
- Guidance to the staff working with the child
- Play therapy

■ Meeting with parents and kindergarten

■ Evaluation

Tests as part of an expert assessment

- Bayley II (0-42 months)
- Reynell (1½ -6 years)
- Leiter-R (2-20 years)
- WPPSI-R (3-7 years)
- Norsk Fonemtest (speech)
- PEP-R (6 months-7 years)

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- Disabled children have priority (Framework Plan for the Content and Tasks of Kindergarten § 9)
 - Easier to organize
 - More flexibility
 - Some children are too sick/weak to attend regular kindergarten

[Team – special education]

- Preschool teachers with competence in special education
- Different areas of expertise
- Meetings on a regular basis - agreements
 - Meetings with kindergarten/parents
 - Tests/observations/assessments
 - Coaching/guidance

[Mental health - plan]

- Agreement to work out a plan on how to work to help children under the age of 18 to a healthier mental life (1998)
- Today's knowledge that childhood is a very vulnerable period in life
- Today – 2-3 persons in our office
- Short term therapy – playroom
- Groups with traumatized children (mainly school age)

[Family centre]

- Cooperation between different local authorities
- Low level centre for parents and their children - at risk groups
- Parents with drug related problems
- Parents with mental problems
- Starting as a project with financial support from the state

[Family centre]

- Starting up Oct/Nov 08
- Once a week – (or two short days)
- 3 different local services (child care, health care and PPT) give 20% each
- One person with long tradition in helping parents using Marte Meo guidance/counselling

[Family centre]

- Families recruited from
 - Kindergartens
 - Health care service
 - Hospitals and institutions working with parents with mental problems or drug related problems

[Summary]

- Focus on early detection and early intervention
- Help the child and prevent development of secondary problems
- At the same time – working with the schools
- In our office we still have a long way to go
- Well recognized in the community by working together with parents and other agencies