



All aboard! – The salutogenic museum is an educational development project at the Vasa Museum in Stockholm which will run from 2008 to 2010 and then be absorbed into the museum's regular educational programme. The project is supported by the Swedish Inheritance Fund and is being conducted jointly by the Swedish National Maritime Museums, the National Association for Disabled Children and Youths in Stockholm (RBU), Save the Children, Sweden, and the Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital at the Karolinska University Hospital, the Swedish Institute for Special Needs Education and Handisam – Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination. Idea and Concept development by Carina Ostenfeldt.

The aim is that **every** child or young person, regardless of their specific functionality should be able to benefit from, enjoy and actively take part in the educational activities on equal terms and with due dignity.

Accordingly we are inspired by a **philosophy of accessibility** in our operations:

- **Expansive focus** – broad, inclusive and liberating solutions that encourage independence, participation and new coping strategies.
- **Multifunctional development** rather than adaptation – And **getting things right** from the start.
- The work is a process of learning that acts as an **innovative hub** for all the operations.

We regard accessibility as a matter of democracy, of human rights and of health. Thus we take our point of departure from the **UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child**. The project has, accordingly, been developed in close collaboration with an expert group of children. By creating contexts that are understandable, doable and meaningful we are working in accordance with a **foundational salutogenic perspective** which promotes health. We have a **socio-cultural perspective** on learning and development which means, for example, that our educational environments and activities are rich in opportunities.

There is a new, **purpose-designed educational room** at the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. The room represents a total experience for all the senses and it encourages independence, discovering, learning, participation, training and cooperation. We are also the first museum in the world to have produced a **site map in Blissymbolics**. Educational programmes can also be held in **sign language**. The operations and diverse activities can also be used for rehabilitation and in habilitation work.

Activities in the room must be **booked in advance** and are always conducted in collaboration with the museum's own educators. The various activities use the warship Vasa and 17th century life as their starting point. Visitors can, Ex. discover and study objects just like a marine archaeologist. Or work on the sails and ropes or try steering the ship etc.

The project also includes two mobile units which we call "vipers". Viper was the name given to the smaller boats that accompanied the Vasa. The **vipers** combine the museum's educational activities with the rehabilitation process for children and young people. The mobile, "viper" units are based at the two sites of the Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital.

A **Magazine** and a devoted to the project will be published in November 2010. (Also in English) This material is intended for use by people interested in working in a similar manner.

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