



## **Finniskola experiences 2018-2020**

The experiment with groups of children has been going on at the Finniskola for two years. We examine whether the hybrid-socratic method<sup>1</sup> (walkingminds) works as a complement to the public education system?

We walk regularly with the same groups for 2, 4 or 6 hours a week. During the walk, we stop every 10-15 minutes and talk about specific topics that are closely related to the school curriculum. The groups are of mixed ages and consist of 8-12 students. They come from a wide variety of schools and very different family environments. One walk 6-10 km long, forest route.

We know this after 24 months:

- (1) The walkingminds method is an effective adjunct to school learning.*
- (2) It strengthens and inspires a selflearning attitude.*
- (3) It relieves tensions arising from school life.*
- (4) It develops cooperation skills and solidarity.*
- (5) Improves verbal skills.*
- (6) It connects the feeling of happiness with learning and thus amplifies the willingness to learn.*
- (7) Develops life-long-learning competencies.<sup>2</sup>*

Practical experience and micro-experiments have demonstrated that the hybrid-socratic method (walkingminds) is an effective and sustainable method to counterbalance the sometimes rigid public education systems. This form of learning is refreshing for children. Their thinking that reinforces the interdisciplinary approach and the recognition of knowledge as liquid value like a strong intellectual value.

Parents are satisfied with the effects of the program and their decisions justify acceptance of the value for money of the program.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic\\_method](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic_method)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/education/sites/education/files/document-library-docs/factsheet-key-competences-lifelong-learning\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/education/sites/education/files/document-library-docs/factsheet-key-competences-lifelong-learning_en.pdf)