Literacy & Democracy

Presentation by:
Rose Eriksson, Previously teacher at Sida Sandö. Previously teacher at Sida's Training Centre.
Anna Hälgren, Library Consultant, Project Coordinator, Library of Västernorrland County/Regional Development
Democracy- What’s democrazy for you? (think short about it, share and talk About it with someone in the room.
How often do you talk about democracy?
Important for children and young adults to reflect and talk about core values Like democracy. To meet, share, listen and learn
Why reading?
Why is important for you to read? For the society?
Write down your thoughts about reading.
Discuss 2 and 2.
Why is it important to read?
How many words? Mats Myrberg, professor at Stockholm University, works with reading and science about literacy.

- A child needs 5000-7000 words to become a reader when they start school. It’s about 1000 stories read aloud.
- At 17 if you read in school and at home, read aloud up in years, go to libraries... you have 50-70 000 words
- But if a 17 year old doesn’t read at home, just texts in school they have only 15000-17000 words
- You need to understand a newspaper article at least 50 000 words. Today 20% of the 15 year-old in Sweden have problems with their reading skills. It’s a big gap between readers and non-readers.
- Trend in Sweden: read aloud is sinking dramatically. Ten years ago 70% of the parents read for the children. Today around 35% Read aloud is the best way of learning a language and become a reader.
- 10% of the population in Sweden also is excluded from the digital.
Västernorrland County

- 7 municipalities
- 244,120 citizens (September 30, 2015)

Regional Development Strategy, RUS, Future Västernorrland Infrastructure, Business, Health, Education...

The trend in Västernorrland is not good around the education level compared to other regions in Sweden. Boys grades are dropping. And less students go to higher education (University) than in other parts of Sweden.
• Strong Libraries, Strong Societies  
• The Act on Library Services  
  1996, revision 2012  

The basic principles of the Library Act are that:  
• Every local authority must have a public library  
• Libraries must lend literature free of charge  
• Every citizen shall have access to a public library
Sweden; PISA 2016- the socio-economic gap is warning sign. All schools need to be good schools for all children. Children with parents who read aloud has better results. School libraries important.
Results literacy: Sweden has dropped the last PISA-reports. It’s an alarming gap between readers and non-readers. Could we have a strong and democratic society when 20% can’t read easy books, see through fakenews, understand and get information...
Socio economic gaps are a warning flag!
What can we do?
Key factors for literacy and language-skills:

Work with early literacy, like Bookstart
Read aloud- up in the ages
Reading talk/reflections/discussion about books
Interaction when you read aloud
Role model-parents, teachers, trainers,…
Sharing the reading experience/sharing stories
Commitment-cooperation: pre-school, school, libraries, sport Clubs…
Reading development-right book to the right child. Help to find Books. Librarians, teachers, parents-pep talk and book talks
Access to books, libraries, book shops, e-books

Ur: Med läsning som mål, Jonas Andersson, KUR
"The Target of Reading: On Methods and research in the Field of Reading Promotion ", Jonas Andersson, Swedish Arts Council
Inventory and analysis of capacity regarding literacy skills and reading motivation in Västernorrland

-Interviews with the indirect target groups

-Developments that are having an effect on capacity regarding reading skills

-Research and conclusions

www.kulturradet.se/sv/english/New-Swedish-book-on-Reading-Promotion
Essential factors for improving reading motivation among young people

(1) Relevance
(2) Wide range
(3) Time
(4) Choice
(5) Social interaction about the text
(6) Success with challenging texts
(7) Incentives which reflect the value and importance of reading.

Linda Gambrell
Capacity Building 1

“The Reading Lift” Läslyftet

- An opportunity to develop teaching together with peers
- In-depth knowledge of teaching language, reading and writing
- Competence development directly related to the teacher’s own teaching
Capacity Building 2
Capacity Building 3

“Sweden Reads with the Kids”
-Reading delegation
-The Reading Break
-Expanded Book Start
Why aren’t young people better readers?

• Competition from technology
• Stress in modern society
• Lack of reading - role models
• “People read less than they did 20-30 years ago”
• “Reading isn’t cool” Robert, player
Improving Reading Results

• “If you want to create an interest in reading and storytelling, librarians are the ones to turn to!”
• More involvement from the parents
• Cooperation between schools and libraries
• Reading-reading between the lines-reading beyond the lines
Conclusions: Successful Reading Promotion

• Start early
• Identify target groups that have greater needs than others
• Provide a wide range of reading materials: different genre and types of text
• Promote social reading
• Make use of reading role models
• Emphasise freedom of choice
• Work on different target groups’ identified interests
• Encourage cooperation between schools and public libraries
• Formulate clear, achievable goals and evaluate

Jonas Andersson
www.kulturradet.se/sv/english/New-Swedish-book-on-Reading-Promotion
The Big Question

How can we strengthen the capacity of the education sector and enhance community involvement to meet the needs of children and young adults who face a variety of barriers to becoming the competent readers who are necessary for democratic societies?
Why sport and why reading?

Reading and sports have a lot in common. You need both of them in order to build democratic citizens with intelligence and respect for others. Just like the muscles in your body needs to be trained and looked after in order for it to work properly, your brain needs to work out as well. Reading has an amazing effect. It affects your brain in a different way than other tasks do. Imagination, the ability to live the story, to re-load and start over again. These skills are needed in both sports and reading."

Reading coach; Johan Unenenge, Sports and Reading, The Swedish Arts Council and SISU

Västernorrland- has lots of sport clubs. Cooperation with libraries, sport clubs, school is good and important. We all have responsibility to find ways to help children to get a healthy and rich life through life both with Reading and sports.
Best practices - from different projects with reading and sport in Sweden

Projects like Goal, Pass the book, Booksport and team-reading, In Motion.

All in Swedish Art Councils project: Paus-one book

And don't miss Great Britain's success - programme about reading

Premier League Reading Stars.

Activities to do out in the sport clubs

Bookboxes

Pop up-libraries at football camps, sport camps

Reading corners

Homework help

Writing schools

Making a book together

Hip hop-workshops

Poetry in sms

Read aloud at trainings

Book bags for team to take to games...

Role models, older players meet younger

Book and film

Reading competitions

Lessons about reading for trainers, parents

Storytelling

Booktalks/Pep talks

Book circle

Make You tube-clip with book talks
Bonnier Hoops
https://youtu.be/oZLaXT0iJBw
Dare to try out and co-operate
Don’ t be afraid of failing.
Try out and try again. Don’ t give up!
Listen to the young people.
Go outside the box, your comfort zone
Co-operation between many different sections and groups
Passion/Commitment- find the right persons. Work together.
Reading Role models- is very important.
Active lecture/readings/reflections/talks/sharing- makes us all to grow.
Keep sustainable – this is not just a short project.
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The Big Question

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Discussion:

What can you/we bring from this day?

What do we need to work on? What can we develop right here, right now?

How can sports develop even further with the help from culture and arts, and how can culture and arts develop through the knowledge of sports?

Vad kan du/vi ta med oss från dagen?

Vad kan vi arbeta vidare med? Vad kan vi göra här och nu?

Hur kan idrotten berikas/lära av kulturen och vad kan idrotten berika/lära av kulturen?