

Bookstart

- With the aim of stimulating the language development of small children:

Since the start of Bookstart in England in 2009, the project has spread throughout the world and is now available in nearly 30 countries.



Bookstart in Västernorrland 2014-2018

Purpose:

investigate

how home visits could be carried out as a method for stimulating the language development of small children.

Focus:

was on

home visits to asylum-seeking young parents.

The project administrator met 20 different languages in addition to Swedish. Most were Arabic-speaking and second-most-spoken Persian, Dari



Foto: Daniel Håkansson

One project goal was

Create **Collaboration** between libraries, child health care and preschool.

With the aim of **improving quality and long-term work**



A second project goal was **Anchoring**

With the aim of make the actions **survive even after the project.**



The project worked intensively with anchoring the method

By informing at library manager meetings and child libraries meetings, the project has enabled discussions in municipalities **how the project can survive outside the regional library responsibility.**



The project worked intensively on continuous **anchor Bookstart at child care centers, municipalities, libraries and preschools**. This has been done through information and skills development, practical support and encouragement.



The project officers participated in many different contexts to spread information about the project and **encourage collaboration between the different professions.**



Foto: Anette Strandqvist

Agneta and Jessika, project manager for Bookstart interviewed by the speech magazine Spotlight in Västernorrland

The project worked with anchoring the method of early learning among:

- **Politicians**, regional and municipal.
- **Officials** on different levels.
- **Children librarians**
- **Preschool teachers**
- **Child health care staff and others who work with children**
- **Library managers**
- The **project officers** themselves, also needed support, inspiration and education.

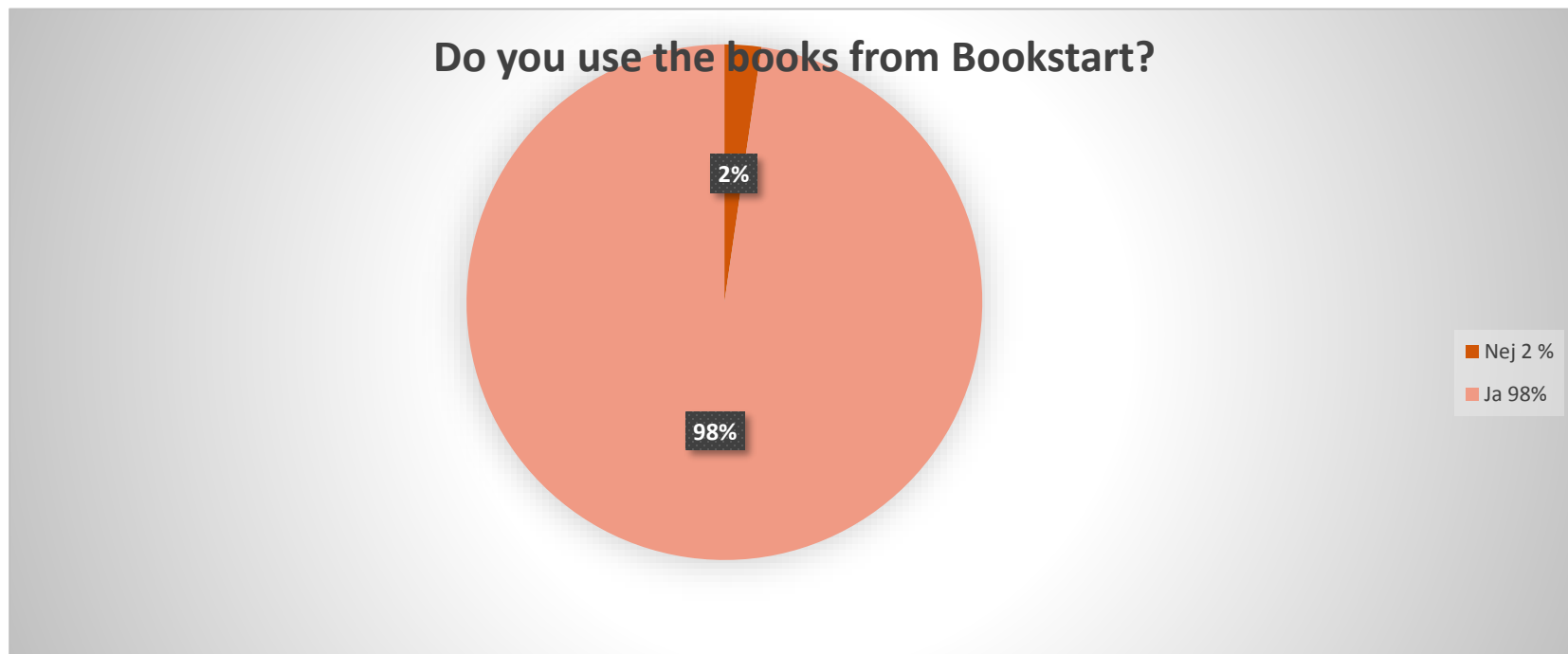
Results:



Bookstart Västernorrland made **507 family visits**. Of them were **205 home visits**. About 216 families were reached.



At the last home visit the families answered a questionnaire via their mobile phones. 98% answered that they read and talk more with their children after the visits of Bookstart.



To day:

Bookstart is going on even after the main project

Four of seven municipalities in Västernorrland have started own Bookstart projects.

Municipal libraries collaborate with child health care and preschool. Also other actors can be involved, such as speech therapy, family centers and so on.

Support is given from the state's cultural council.



Continuation at regional level

In the regional library plan 2019-2022, the goal is to **support the public libraries' work** on language networks and small children reading.

The ambition is:

- to monitor and **follow the National Council for Culture's National Activities** for Book Start.
- to **organize study days** at regional level.
- to coordinate a regional **reference group with child health coordinators and representatives from public libraries, preschool and speech therapy.**
- to constantly inform and **keep the issue alive at library** meetings and in library activities for children and young people.
- to **produce written agreements** between actors in the region and in the municipalities.

Report and handbook



A combined report and manual have been written by the regional library.

It describes the project and gives many tips on what to think about in a similar project

Good luck with the reading promotion work in Mombasa

