



## **Buddy system at school**

In our school we have a system that we call mentorship, it is a kind of buddy system between pupils. The aims of the buddy work are for the pupils to feel safe in school and for them to have good relationships with other pupils. The six year olds are mentored by nine year olds and they have the same mentor for three years. When they turn nine they in turn become a mentor for someone who has just started at the school (six year olds).

Some of the benefits of this system are that the younger pupils feel safe at school and they interact with older pupils. The older pupils learn responsibility, empathy, consideration and raise their own confidence by helping and taking care of the younger pupils.

Mentor activities are the basis for many of our joint activities during the school year. The system strongly contributes to a safe school environment and a good WE-feeling in school.

The teacher's role is to get the interaction to work and to give the pupils appropriate activities. This requires careful planning and sometimes there can be scheduling problems when two different classes meet.

Keywords: buddy system, mentor, social relationships, interaction.