



UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPERE

**A research symposium: Leadership perspectives from near and far  
from Australia and Europe**

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## **CONTEXTUALLY DEFINED LEADERSHIP IN CHILD CARE**



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### **The presentation includes:**

- **Theoretical view to leadership:  
ontology and the core concepts  
in contextual thinking**
- **Understanding contextual leadership  
in Finnish child care**





## **Theoretical understanding of contextually defined leadership:**

**Leadership of the organisation is based on the same paradigm as the mission and the core tasks of organization as well as the vision of the organization**



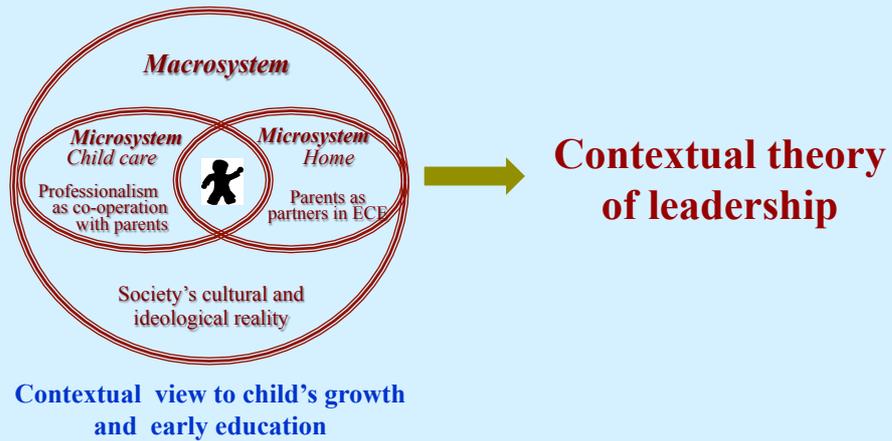
## **In child care, the theoretical understanding of contextually defined leadership:**

**The mission of ECEC and core tasks in the child care as well as the goals for ECEC construct the foundation for LEADERSHIP**

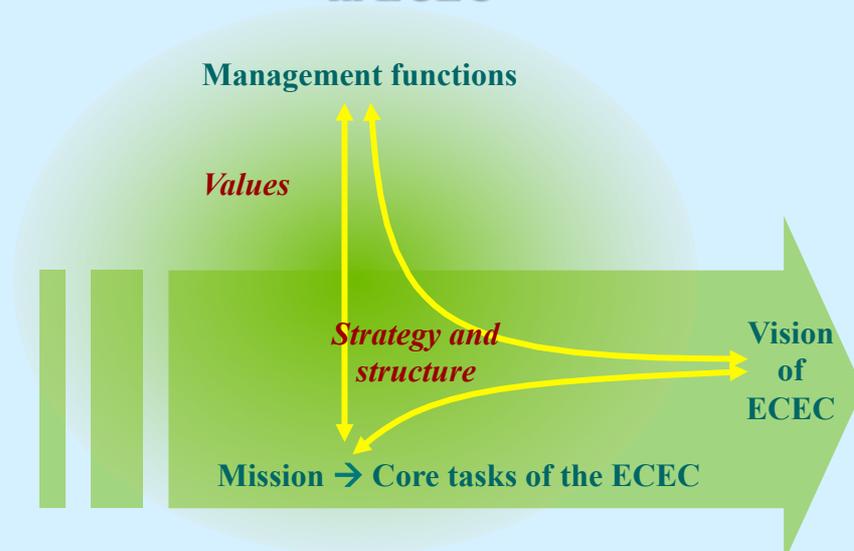




## Theoretical foundation for ECEC → leadership



## Mission based, contextually defined leadership in ECEC





## Case Finland / EC mission – EDUCARE:

**Integration of the ECEC core tasks: education,  
teaching and care**



**ECEC publicly operated, supervised and supported**  
**ECEC is every child's subjective right = Access to  
child care and kindergarten is for every child**



### ***Mission of Finnish ECEC → Core tasks:***

- To take care of children's care and upbringing by offering child care services for families
- To enhance early learning and child's development



### ***Goal:***

- To promote childrens' wellbeing & early learning
- To support families in their parenting tasks



## Curriculum guidelines for pedagogical practice

- **To promote ECEC practice based on parent-teacher partnership where children feel joy of learning, appreciation as a child and personal well-being**



## The Vision of Finnish child care

**Well trained EC professionals and leaders supported by policy makers and politicians takes joint leadership to strengthen the role of ECEC and further develop the mission of it to support children's well-being and early learning**





## Leadership tasks/management functions in Finnish ECEC:

- to develop the core task  
Mission → Vision → Strategy work
- to involve teachers to assess and develop ECEC practices in child care
- to take responsibility of quality management in ECEC



## Contextually defined leadership

- is based on EC culture and shared strategic thinking in the child care ← reflects the history and values ECEC/the society
- interconnectedness between mission of ECEC, actors and the structure of the program
- focus on visionary leadership and proactive leaders' role to meet the future challenges of ECEC





**Thank you for your interest!**

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