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## Talking to children about growing up in families with alcohol abuse

### *ABSTRACT*

Through the last eleven years I have been working with children and their families around the subject of alcohol abuse. Together with a former colleague I have developed a way to start up the conversations with the children and youngsters. It involves a little bit of drawing, which I am not very good at, but it has some effect on the conversation – that I, as a professional, dare to be insecure and “not perfect”.

In my practice showcase I will demonstrate a drawing and the conversation it leads to. I will tell about my experiences with the drawing, and which dilemmas and paradoxes I discuss with the children and youngsters, and how we together try to create new social worlds for them by, if possible, including their parents, other family members, teachers or other professionals, friends, siblings and so on.

One of the most important systems, in my opinion, for securing the growth of the child’s wellbeing is the school and the relations the child is a part of in that setting. Therefor my practice showcase will also revolve around the subject of, how the knowledge we acquire about the child’s life in the family influences on relations in school and vice versa.

I will also try to connect the practice to the theoretical inspirations I have been influenced by. My theoretical inspirations for this type of conversations are in particular: Antonovsky, Bruce Perry, Michael White, Cecchin, Bertrando, Barnett Pearce and of course the underline of it all is the social constructionism and Kenneth Gergen himself.