

Insights about our work with gifted children

Madelene Jonsson, Jönköpings Kommun

Why are we here today?

If I have succeeded in brightening a single gloomy childhood, I am satisfied.

Har jag lyckats förgylla en enda dyster barndom, är jag nöjd.

Har jeg nået at förgylde en enkelt dyster barndom, jeg er tilfreds.

– Astrid Lindgren



Foto: Johnér Bildbyrå

Briefly about me

madelene.jonsson@jonkoping.se

- ▶ Math and special education teacher
- ▶ Work as an operational analyst with the focus on gifted children and math in the municipality of Jönköping



How Jönköping spreads knowledge about gifted children

Jönköping has 142 000 inhabitants and is the 7th largest school municipality in Sweden.



Supporting gifted students is not a choice, we must help them find the right path.

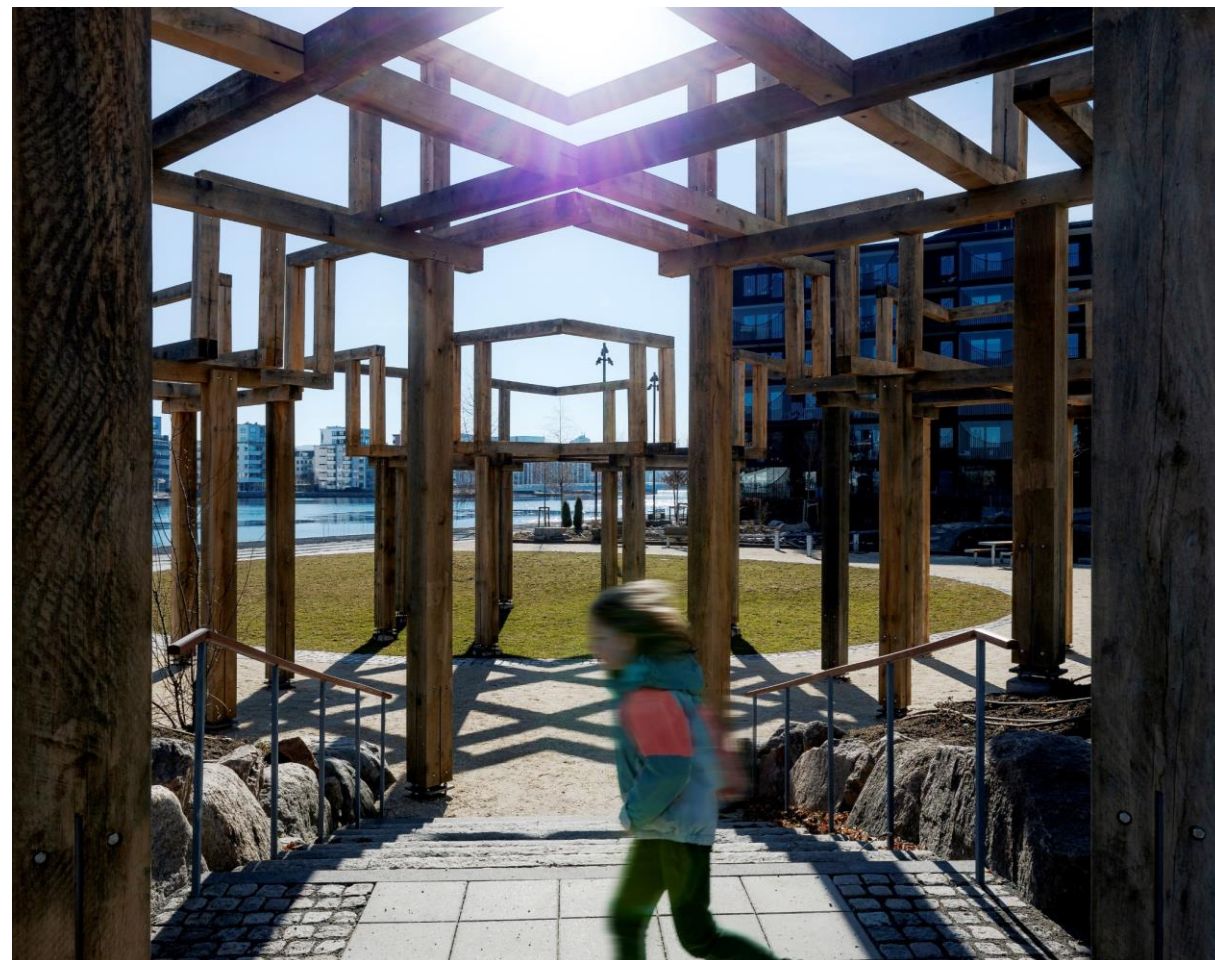


Foto: Werner Nystrand

The education act

5% of the students are gifted*

”Students who easily reach the grade criteria that must at least be achieved must be given guidance and stimulation to be able to reach further in their knowledge development”

Education act (2010:800) Stockholm. Department of Education

**Source: The Swedish National Agency for Education*



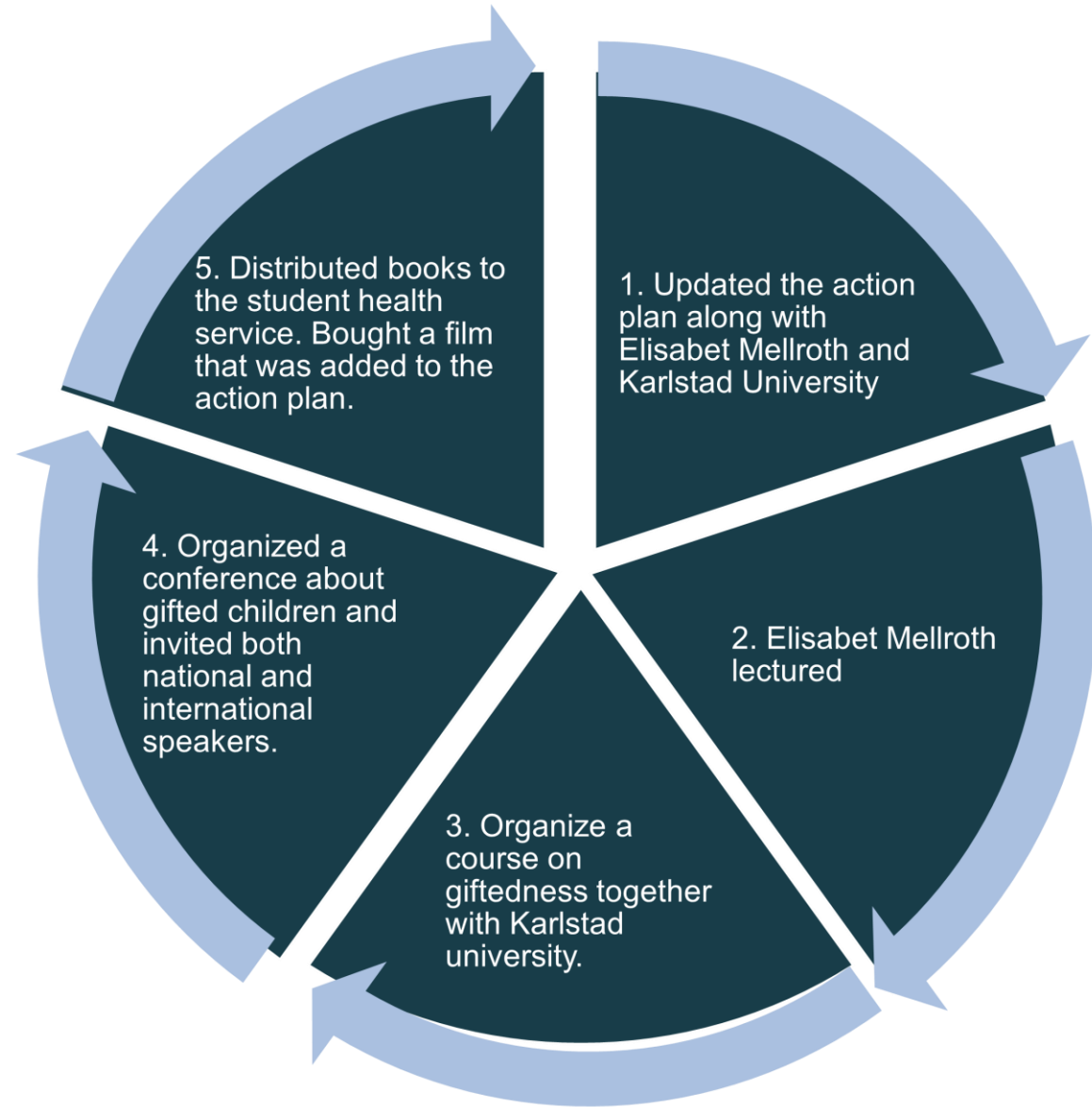
How do we identify gifted children and students? Where do we start?

How did it all start?

- It started two years ago.
- Charlotte Olsson, the director of Education in Jönköping and the management team for the education administration decided that we should focus on gifted children.



Important parts of our work



The goal with the action plan was to gather important information and knowledge in one place



The action plan can be a form of reference book

pedagog.jonkoping.se

The action plan is written by Elisabet Mellroth

Handlingsplan særligt talent

Her er startsiden for handlingsplanen for **Special Talent**. Denne side og dens undersider er en del af et materiale, der er beregnet til at være en ressource til tilpasninger til højtpræsterende børn og elever, der let når skolens mål.

Handlingsplanen henvender sig til medarbejdere i Jönköping kommunes kommunale børnehaver, grundskoler og gymnasier. Den er baseret på uddannelsesloven, læseplanen og Skolverkets støttmateriale til elever med særlige evner.

Handlingsplanen har til formål at tilvejebringe:

- Konkret støtte til, hvordan undervisningen kan tilpasses børn og elever med særlige evner.
- Giv støtte i, hvordan børn og elever med særlige evner kan opdages.
- Giv støtte i, hvordan viden kan kortlægges.
- Forslag til organisatoriske forhold, der skal lette det for børn og elever med særlige evner.
- Forslag til pædagogiske tilpasninger til børn og elever med særlige evner.
- Forslag til ansvarsfordeling.
- Forslag til kompetenceudvikling på området.

Arbejdet med dette bør indgå i kvalitetsarbejdet på førskole-, skole- og forvaltningsniveau.

Karlstad University (KAU)

- ▶ The course runs for two years.
It started in August 2023
- ▶ 15 university credits
- ▶ 25 people with different professions (principals, teachers in various subjects, special education teachers)
- ▶ Elisabet Mellroth and Valerie Margrain are examiners
- ▶ May 2025 participants will receive a certification: ECHA – European Council for High Ability
- ▶ <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/jonkoping/forskaren-om-varfor-sarskilt-begavade-barn-behover-tidig-hjalp>



Foto: Pedagog Jönköping

The conference in Jönköping 2024

The purpose with the conference was to share knowledge

You can watch the conference on UR-play

Who were invited?

Politicians

The management team at the municipality's education administration

Teachers and student health care

Other municipalities had the opportunity to participate

The Swedish Minister of Education Lotta Edholm visited the conference

Who lectured?

Both national and international speakers talked about gifted children from different perspectives.



Foto: Pedagog Jönköping

EHCA- European Council for High Ability

Elisabet Mellroth is a doctor in educational work and she is the Swedish national correspondent of ECHA

- ECHA works across Europe
- ECHA is a European organisation focused on supporting and promoting gifted children and youth.
- The organization provides information, education and networking opportunities for teachers and parents.
- ECHA collaborates with schools, researchers and other organisations.



Foto: Pedagog Jönköping

The overall goal of working with giftedness is to spread knowledge to the management team of the education administration, principals, students, health staff and teachers in Jönköping municipality.



What is happening at the schools after this first year?

Some schools offer students extra challenges in smaller groups.

The document used for investigations of a child's needs are modified to highlight gifted children.

Those who attend the training have offered mini-lecturers to their colleagues.

The schools use the film that was recorded to spread knowledge.

The municipality is collecting results for all students in grade 1 and now also focusing on finding those who need extra challenges.

When information is transferred between different school levels, more attention is now given to students who need challenges.

Politicians in the municipality have been able to take part in the municipality's work and some participated in the conference.

The media has also contributed in a positive way to the work of spreading knowledge. They have covered many different angles.

Next step

To develop a plan for implementation of the action plan.

Why? We often forget to implement.



Some examples of what the training includes

The first part (5 university credits):

After completing the course, the participant should be able to:

1. explain the concept of special talent with support in relevant theory formation.
2. illustrate how teaching can be arranged to support learning and discourage underachievement in children and students with special talents.

3. critically analyse classroom behaviour of children and students with special talents, with support in relevant theory formation

4. create teaching resources adapted for children and students with special talents linked to governing documents.

<https://www.kau.se/karlstads-universitets-uppdrags-ab/uppdragsutbildningar/undervisning-skolutveckling/kurser-6>

We need to continue spreading knowledge about giftedness and create opportunities where students can be challenged.

Pippi Longstocking was asked if she could play the piano.

She responded:

“How should I know? I´ve never tried”



Contact: madelene.jonsson@jonkoping.se