

Det bedate du kan gore er at blive smaddergo' til at være DIG.

# The best thing you can do is to become extremely good at being yourself!

### Developing learner autonomy:

# Getting **ALL** learners involved in their own language learning

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## Outline of presentation

- The Salamanca statement /
   Key-features in inclusive pedagogy
- Developing learner autonomy video extract / Key-features in autonomous learning
- Developing learner autonomy :
   Examples from an autonomous classroom
- Concluding remarks

# The Salamanca statement (1994)

We believe and proclaim that (extract):

- every child has a fundamental right to education, and must be given the opportunity to achieve and maintain an acceptable level of learning,
- every child has unique characteristics, interests, abilities and learning needs,
- education systems should be designed and educational programmes implemented to take into account the wide diversity of these characteristics and needs.

# Inclusive pedagogy recommends:

- The establishment of a secure and socially well-functioning environment: Appreciation and acknowledgement
- Structure
- Focus on what to do rather than whom to support (inclusion as opposed to integration or even worse - exclusion)
- Activities where everybody can contribute something and where everybody will gain something (differentiation)
- Peer-tutoring
- Participation in decision making as regards own learning
- Possibilities for choice partner, content, way of working, etc.

within certain constraints.

(Recent experiences gained by Danish pedagogues and teachers)

# Developing learner autonomy

Extract from the video:
 It's up to yourself if you want to learn!



(=>everybody can take part)

Involving learners"
identity and
previous
knowledge
(=> security +

motivation)

Focusing on
what rather than
who (=>
inclusion vs.
Integration)

Visible aims and expectations

(=> clear structure)



Key-features in the autonomy classroom



Evaluation of learning – looking back, planning ahead

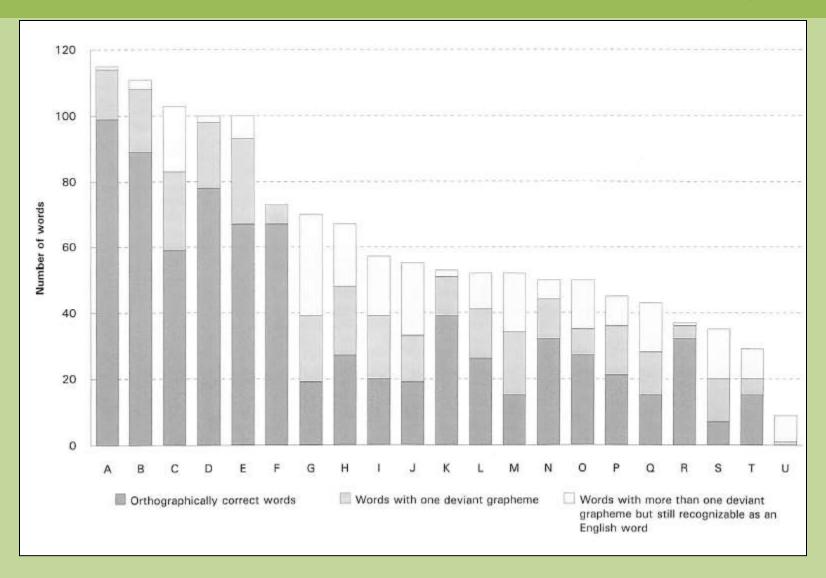
# Seating in groups

(=> Social aspects of learning)

The importance of **choice** (=> reflection => responsibility)

Peer tutoring (=>cooperation)

#### The class - Vocabulary "test" after 6 weeks of English



### **Seating in groups**

#### Peer tutoring

Group work

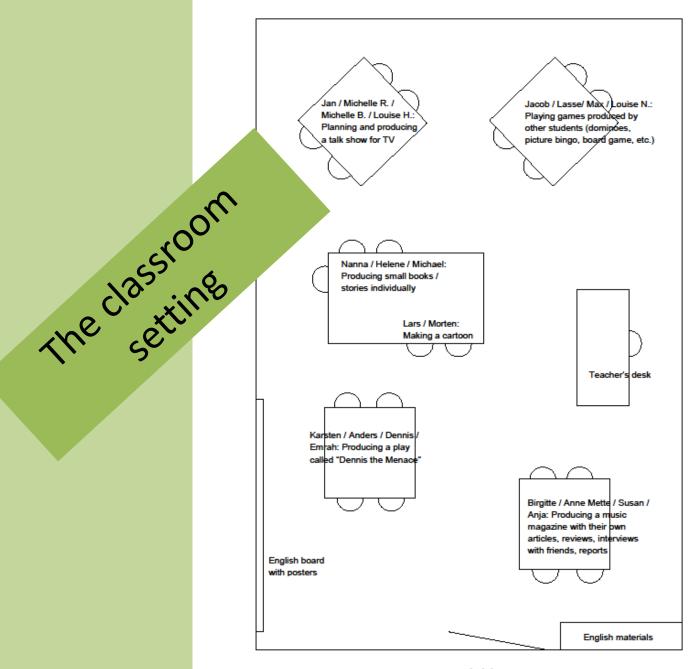


Social learning

Independence of teacher

### Who does what?

Who?	What?
Emrah / Lars	Make an essay
Susan / Anne Mette	Read books
Anders / Karsten / Dennis	Make a radio programme
Nanna / Birgitte	Make a TV programme
Jan	Translate English songs into
	Danish
Helene	Work with poems
Jacob / Louise	Make a game
Lasse/ Louise N. / Michael /	Make a play
Max / Michelle R. / Michelle B.	
2nd year of English, 12-year-olds	



#### A learner-produced play as group work

OH NO !!!!!!!!

Narrator: Jerry and his friend Steve are going home from school, the two big

boys Dick and Jack wait for them.

Jerry : Oh no, not again.

Dick : What've got here, mann

Jack : It is the little Jerry, and his friend Steve, shall we have some fun.

Dick : Yes, we will have some fun, with the two small boys.

Jack : Oh Steve are you going home to your mother and give her a big kiss.

Dick : Oh yes, and you Jerry, you are on your way home because you will

have your dummy.

Jerry : Run Steve, run-a-way.

Steve : I'm running, Jerry.

Narrator: Steve and Jerry run home to Jerry's place. Later Jerry and Steve go for

a little walk.

Jerry : Why should we always be teased?.

Steve : I dont know.

Narrator: Now they are meeting the bigest girl in the town, Djeni.

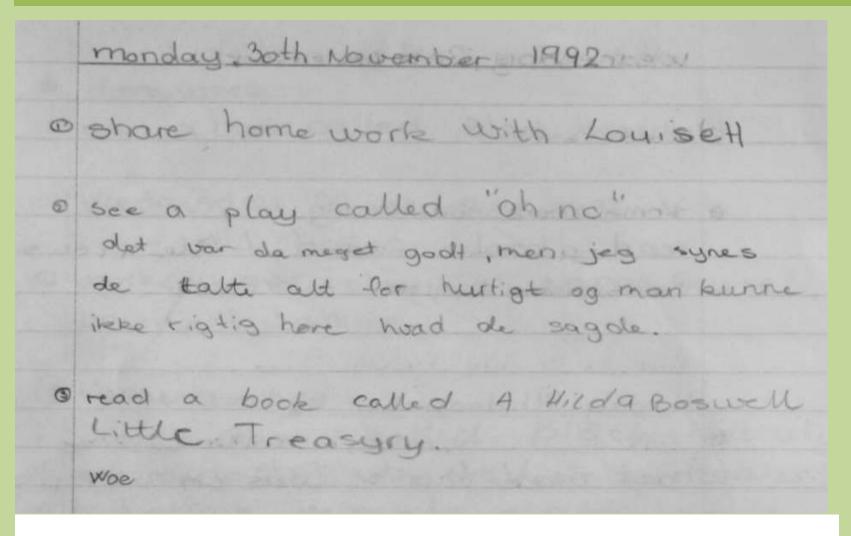
Djeni : Hello micro boys, why should you always be stupid?.

Steve : I don't know.

Djeni : You dont know.

(Play, group work, 1st year of English, 11-year olds — Karsten, Dennis, Helene, Lars, Lasse)

# Susan's logbook entry



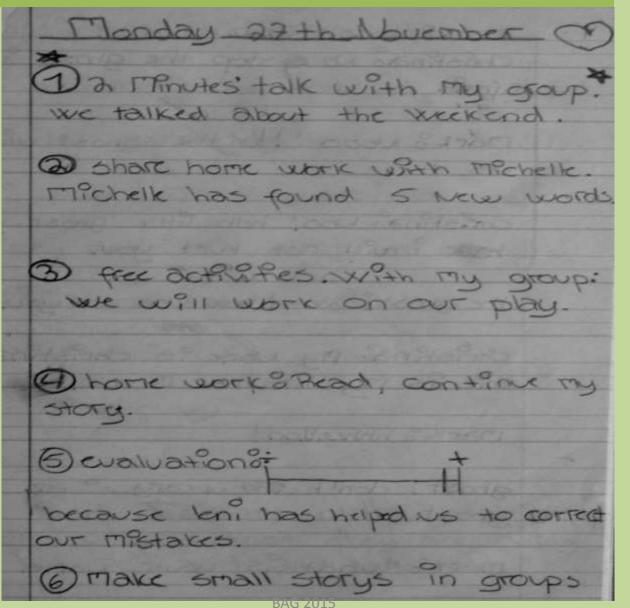


# A possible plan for group work

- Share homework with your partner(s)
- Two minutes' talk
- Work with the tasks you have chosen / been given
- Evaluate your work
- Plan homework and perhaps the next lesson

(Poster)

#### Logbook page - 3<sup>rd</sup> year of English / girl

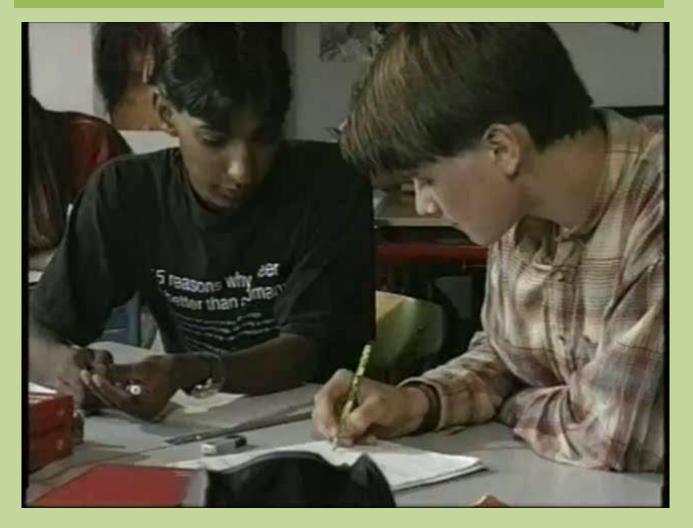


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### Rules for homework

- Homework is a must.
- You can choose from the list of ideas.
- You must be able to do your homework without the help of your parents.
- Whatever you choose should be so interesting that you can't help doing it.
- You must always read in your extra reader until you have come across at least 5 new words.
- Whatever you do, you should learn something from it.

### **Peer-tutoring**



#### Good group work – individual statements

- A good group work is work everybody take part in, and discuss everything, and they like each other. Everybody has to talk English all the time. Everybody has to do something for the group. When you learn something from the group. (Emrah)
- Good group work is: That we talk English all the time, and we can work without getting mad at each other. Everybody has to work with something. You have to learn something about it. We have to discuss everything what we are doing. (Max)

### **Involvement of parents**

Detailed information about the set-up of teaching and learning:

- What we do (a plan for a period).
- Why we do it (e.g. the curricular guidelines).
- How we do it (e.g. the use of logbooks and portfolios, homework to be done).
- Expectations of parents (taking part in their children's learning / showing interest in their homework).

#### **Conclusion**

- It is possible to get all learners involved in their own learning if the key-features of learner autonomy are catered for.
- It is possible to create a learning environment where the individual learner feel accepted and respected – an environment which supports self-esteem and self- respect and thus respect for others.
- It is possible to make all learners good language learners.

#### Peer-to-peer talks / 2 minutes' talk – Dennis and Lasse

D: What did / what should you do today?

L: Today I ehm I shall have my birthday.

D: Have you birthday today?

L: Yes.

D: Happy birthday.

L: Thank you. So I should home and, and and make made a cake to my-

D: Birthday cake?

L: Cake, yes, so I should have this cake and, so

to, afternoon my eh my friend is coming and .....

(cf. Legenhausen 2001:65)

#### Peer - to - peer talk, German group

J: I'm going to have a family with two ehm chil childrens, and I'm going to live in a big house.

I: When is your birthday?

J: My birthday is now.

I: Ah, my birthday is on the sixteen *ah ja* of ehm of May. When is your sister's birthday?

J: My sister's birthday is in is on the twenty-seventh of February.

I: What films do you like?

. . .

### With what result? - a learner's voice

Most important is probably the way we have worked. That we

were expected to and given the chance to decide ourselves what to do. That we worked independently. And we have learned much more because we have worked with different things. In this way we could help each other because some of us had learned something and others had learned something else. It doesn't mean that we haven't had a teacher to help us. Because we have, and she has helped us. But the day she didn't have the time, we could manage on our own. (Max)

(Dam 2006)

#### Remember

"The schools that kids love have the quality of active learning environments, allowing students to become shareholders of their own learning." (Rogers 1969:9)