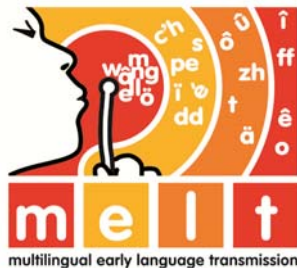




MELT Project Newsletter 3 – July 2011



Diweddariad - Prosiect MELT – 4 Gwlad

Cymru – Margaret Francis



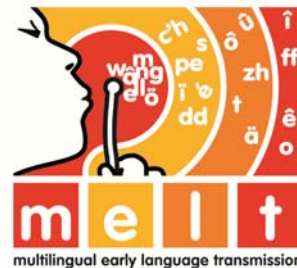
Ynformaasje byienkomst

Op 13 april waard der yn Wales in suksesfolle byienkomst hâlden, mear as fjirtich minsken wiene oanwêzich.

Eftergrûnynformaasje oer it MELT (Multilingual Early Language Transmission) projekt en oer de ûntwikkelings waarden ferteld. En der waarden diskusjes fierd oer it belang fan taal en ûnderdompelings technyken.

De folgjende konklúzjes waarden trokken:

- Der soe mear Welsk mei de bern yn twatalige foarskoalske ynstellings praten wurde moatte.
- Mear trening en ûndersteuning is der nedich om gerichte taal-taken binnen de foarskoalske ynstellings oan te bieden.
- Der is in needsaak om de oergong



MELT Project Update – 4 Regions

Wales – Margaret Francis



Awareness Raising Seminar

On April 13th, a very successful seminar was held with over forty people in attendance.

Information regarding the MELT (Multilingual Early Language Transmission) project background and its development was shared, whilst discussions on the importance of language immersion techniques were also held.

The following conclusions were made:

- Only the target language should be spoken with the children in a bilingual pre-school setting.
- More training and support is needed to deliver language focused tasks within our pre-school settings.
- A need to strengthen the transition

tusken de foarskoalske ynstellings en de basisskoallen te fersterkjen.

- Mei it each op de konsistinsje en kontinuïteit; de ûntwikkelde toolkit foar meiwurkers yn de foarskoalske ynstellings moat brûkt wurde yn alle Welske foarskoalske ynstellings en ek op de Welske basisskoallen.

It wie bemoedigjend dat alle oanwêzigen de toolkit, mei taalûntwikkelings-aktiviteiten en taaladvizen bestimd foar foarskoalske ynstellings, as in nuttige bron sjogge en ferwolkomje.

Myn lêste mentor besites



Wilens myn besites oan de pjutteplakken, wie it taalkundige probleem in útdaging, omdat de mearderheid fan de liedsters (beoefeners) sels it Welsk nog leare moatte. Ien fan de wichtigste problemen yn de praktyk is dat bern net altyd de doeltaal (of Ingelsk of Welsk) konsekwiint hearre.

De ienige oplossing foar dit probleem wie derfoar te soargjen dat eltse beoefener de ferantwurding hie foar in bepaalde aktiviteit, mei yn eltse aktiviteit de nedige sinspatroanen en wurdskat yn it Welsk. Omdat de aktiviteit in pear kear per wike spile wurdt, wurket dit op taalkundich mêd posityf foar de bern én de beoefeners. Dizze metoade sil it selsfertrouwen fan de liedsters fergrutsje.

Yn de measte bernsintra wurdt Welsk yntrodusearre mei help fan de 'sandwich' metoade - eltse sin wurdt yn it Welsk sprutsen, werhelle yn it Ingelsk en opnij werhelle yn it Welsk. Mar as 95% fan de bern fan in bernsintrum thús gjin Welsk

between the pre-school settings and the primary schools.

- In order to gain consistency and continuity, the guide for practitioners in pre-schools should also be introduced in every Welsh-medium pre-school setting as well as Welsh-medium primary schools.

It was encouraging that everyone present welcomed the guide, including languagedevelopment activities and language advices as a useful language resource.

End of Tutor's Visits



During my visits to the playgroups, the linguistic problem was a challenge as the majority of the practitioners are learners of the Welsh language. One of the main problems which arises is that children do not always hear the target language being spoken continuously.

The only solution to this was ensuring that every practitioner took responsibility for a specific activity, with each activity including the necessary sentence patterns and vocabulary. As the activity is played several times a week, this will be linguistically beneficial to the children as well as the practitioners. This method in time will increase the practitioners confidence.

In most of the day care centres Welsh is introduced by using the 'Sandwich' method - every sentence is spoken in Welsh, then repeated in English and repeated in Welsh again . As 95% of the children attending the day care centres come from non -Welsh

praat, is it dreech om in tal fan beoefeners derfan te oerstjûgjen dat it ûnderdompeljen fan de bern yn it Welsk de meast effektive metoade is foar it ferwervjen fan in (twadde) taal. Dochs hat dizze toolkit in posityf effekt hân op in protte ynstellings, it hat de diskusje oer de wize fan ynfiering fan in twadde taal losmakke. In protte ynstellings plenne no taalaktiviteiten yn hun deistige programma yn, mei help fan de ûnderwerpen fan de toolkit.

Alle ynstellingen hawwe de evaluaasjeformulieren ynfold en alle blokken fan de toolkit binne ynfierd en útprobearre. Sommige liedsters hawwe de spultsjes en aktiviteiten oanpast en oaren hawwe harren eigen spultsjes betocht. Ik bin derfan oertsjûge dat dizze aktiviteiten yn de takomst brûkt wurde sille en dat bern hjir taalkundich fan profiteare sille. Ek is der in ôfspraak mei Mudiad Meithrin Officers makke, om fiedere ûnwtikkeling te besprekken en de mooglikheid om de map te yntrodusearjen yn foar foarskoalske ynstellings yn Wales.

Folkhalsan – Johanna (Nanna) Sallinen



Lokaal evenemint

Yn Finlân hawwe we tsien foarskoalske ynstellings 5 kear produktied besocht. Sommige Sweedske ynstellings lizze yn Finse gemeenten, wilesn oaren yn in twatalige omjouwings stean, mei Fins as dominante taal.

De beoefeners binnen de foarskoalske ynstellings binne tankber dat se de mooglikheid hawwe om diel te nimmen oan it MELT projekt, in pear ynstellings betreurden dat se gjin tiid hiene om mei te wurkjen. Ien beoefener ha tasein dat se

speaking homes, it is difficult to convince some practitioners that immersing the children in the target language is the most effective method of acquiring a language. However, this toolkit has had a positive effect on many of the settings as it has encouraged discussion on the method of introducing a second language. Many of the settings are now using the activities as part of their weekly planning.

All the day care settings have completed their evaluation forms and have been introduced to all the activities within the blocks. Some of the pre-school teachers have adapted the activities into other games and have started making their own activities. I am confident that these activities will be used in the future and that the children will benefit linguistically.

A meeting with Mudiad Meithrin Officers will be held very soon, in order to discuss further developments, and the possibility of presenting the guide to all Welsh-medium pre-school settings throughout Wales as a useful language resource.

Folkhälsan – Johanna (Nanna) Sallinen



Local Event

In Finland we have had 50 productive visits to ten day care centres. Some of the Swedish day care centres are situated in monolingual Finnish municipalities, whilst the others are in bilingual surroundings with Finnish as the dominant language.

The practitioners within the settings were extremely grateful that they had the opportunity to take part, with some regretting that they had not had time to work more with the MELT project. One

de MELT Toolkit yn in jier 2011-2012 opnimme sil yn har wurkplan. Fieder ûntfong ien fan de deilnimmende ynstellings subsidyzje. Ek de bern genoaten fan de aktiviteiten, de aktiviteit mei de ferhaaldoaze 'Rûpke noaitgenôach' wie hiel populêr.

Wilens de besites oan de pjutteplakken en bernedeiferbliuwen ha ik de bêste ideeën sammele. Nei de lêste beites, hie ik allegear taal stimulearjende ideeën, ynformaasje oangeande tematyske wurkjen en webside links mei taal-relatearre spultsjes en ferskes. Mei de sammele teoryen en aktiviteiten kreëarde ik in boek, dat ik útdielde oan alle ynstellings die dielnommen oan it projekt. De beoefeners wiene bliid om dit boek te krijen. Ik ha in protte positive reaksjes hân:

'Ik bin bliid dast myn wurk opnommen hast yn dyn boek. It fielt geweldich om erkenning te krijen foar it wurk dat ik doch. It is leuk om materialen, ideeën en feedback te ûntfangen op ús wurk. We hoopje dat MELT it goede wurk troch sette sil.'

Brittany – Virginie Pronost 

Lokale eveneminten



Yn Bretagne waarden twa lokale eveneminten organisearre om it MELT projekt oan politisy en beliedsmeiwurkers te presintearjen. Dizze eveneminten waarden hâlden op 14 maart op twa aparte lokaasjes. De earste byienkomst

practitioner has stated that they refer to the MELT Toolkit while they draft their working plan for the year 2011-2012. Furthermore, one of the settings which took part in the MELT project was awarded with a grant for their work. The children enjoyed the tutor's visits also, with activities such as creating a story box for the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar' extremely popular.

During the visits, I gathered best practices and ideas from each day care centre. Following the completion of my visits, I collected all the language stimulating ideas, information regarding theme work and websites with language-related games and songs and created a book to be distributed to all settings which participated in the project. The practitioners were pleased to receive this book, with many complimentary comments received:

'I am so pleased that you have included my work within the book. It feels great to get recognition for the work I am doing. It has been nice to receive materials, ideas and feedback on our work. We hope that MELT continues its good work.'

Brittany – Virginie Pronost 

Local Events



Two local events were organised in Brittany to present the MELT project to politicians and policy makers. These events were held on the 14th of March at two separate locations. The first was held in Gouesnou, which is situated in the west of Brittany and

waard hâlden yn Gouesnou, dat leit yn it westen fan Bretagne en de twadde waard hâlden yn Begard, yn it sintrum fan Bretagne. Beide eveneminten wiene ferbûn mei in bernedeiferbliuw dy't betrokken is mei it MELT projekt.

De twa eveneminten waarden ferdielt yn twa seksjes. As earste, der waard ynformaasje jûn oer it MELT projekt oan ferskillende persoanen dy gearwurkje op it mêd fan foarskoalsk ûnderwiis. As twadde waard der diskusearre oar de relaasje tusken it bernedeiferbliuw en de beukerskoalle. Dizze koppeling is wichtich omdat yn Bretagne it foarskoalske ûnderwiis beskikber is foar bern oant 3 jier. Om oan de doelstellings fan it MELT projekt te foldwaan, binne sy ferplicht om te wurkjen mei bern dy't al nei de beukerskoalle ta gean.

Troch dizze lokale eveneminten hiene we de kâns om in tal ferskate minsken te moetsjen, dy't miskien net regelmjittich gearwurkje. De oanwêzigen wiene foarskoalske ûnderwiis beliedsmakkers en pedagogyske adviseurs fan de trijde twatalige ûnderwiis sytsmen yn Bretagne. Oan 'e ein fan de byienkomsten waard besletten dat it nuttich wêze soe om takkem jier elkoar wer te moetsjen en dizze agenda troch te setten.



Lêste besiken

Yn april hie ik myn lêste besites oan de bernesintra. Dizze besites binne in hiele ynteressante en spannende perioade foar

the second was held in Begard, central Brittany. Each event was linked with a day care centre involved in the MELT project.

These two events were divided into two sections. Firstly, a summary of the MELT project was given to various individuals who work closely in the field of pre-school education. Secondly, a discussion was held on the link between the day care centre and the kindergarten school. This link is very important as far as Brittany is concerned due to the fact that pre-school education is available for children up to 3 years old. Therefore, in order to meet the project's aims of working to introduce the minority language to children from 6 months to 4 years old, we are required to work with children who have already moved into the schooling system.

This local event provided us with an opportunity to gather a number of different people who might not necessarily collaborate or meet on a regular basis. The attendees included pre-school education policy makers, educational advisers of the three bilingual schooling systems in Brittany and elected individuals also. At the end of the events, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to meet once more next year in order to move forward with this agenda.



End of Tutor's Visits

I finished my visits to all the day care centres at the end of April. These visits have been a very interesting and exciting period

my en de liedsters, wer't ik mei wurke, west. Fanwege de ymplemin-taasje fan de toolkit, organisearre ik in byienkomst wer't alle beoefeners oanwêzich wiene. Dizze byienkomst joech harren de mooglikheid om de suksessen, swierrichheden en goede ervarings fan it projekt meiïnoar te be-praten. De perioade fan de útfiering fan de toolkit wie my tige nei it sin en ik ha genoaten fan it harkjen nei âlde en nije ideeën dy't besprutsen waarden op in hiel dynamyske wize.



Fryslân

Lokaal evenemint

Yn Gorredyk waard in lokaal evenemint organisearre om de bewustwurding omtrint meartaligens te befoarderjen, ek waard de brosjure 'Meartaligens yn it deistich libben' yntrodusearre. Klik [hjiir](#) om de brosjure te downloaden.

Ûngefear fjirtich âlden en liedsters fan bernedeiferbliuw 'De Toverbal' wiene oanwêzich. De byienkomst begûn mei in diskusje oer twa stellingen: '*Twatalige bern ûntwikkelje harren better as ientalige bern*' en '*Hjoeddedei kinne âlders har bern mar better yn it Neder-lânsk opfiede ynstee fan yn it Frysk*'.

De diskusje oer de earste stelling rjochte him op it wurd 'better', dat troch in protte minsken as ferwarrend sjoen waard. De mearderheid fan de âlden en liedsters wiene it net iens mei de twadde stelling, omdat wittenskypelik ûnderwyk nea oantoad hat dat in twatalige opfieding eventuele negative effekten op it fiedere libben fan in bern ha soe.

Ek wiene de oanwêzigen it meiïnoar iens dat twatalich grut wurde in protte kognitive foardeielen mei bringt, wat wol út wittenskiplik ûndersyk dúdlik wurdt.

for me and the practitioners that I have worked with. In order to finish the implementation of the toolkit, I organised a meeting where all the practitioners who took part were in attendance. This allowed them to discuss successes, difficulties and good practice which derived from this project. The period of implementing the toolkit has been a pleasure and I have enjoyed listening to old and new ideas being shared in a very dynamic way.



Friesland

Local Event

A local event was organised to promote the awareness raising guidance pamphlet for parents in Gorredijk. Click [here](#) for downloading the brochure 'Meartaligens yn it deistich libben.'

Approximately forty parents and pre-school practitioners from 'De Toverbal' day care centre were present. The session began with a discussion on two statements – '*Do bilingual children develop better than monolingual children?*' and '*Children should receive a Dutch upbringing rather than a Frisian or a bilingual upbringing*'.

The discussion on the first statement was focused on the use of the word 'better', which was perceived by many as confusing. The majority of parents disagreed with the second statement, stating that there has never been any scientific proof that a bilingual upbringing has any negative effects on children later in life. In addition, many stated that a bilingual upbringing has cognitive advantages as academics also have stated.

Parents and educators felt that the evening was a successful one and they had learnt

Âlden en liedsters hiene it gefoel dat de byienkomst in sukses wie, se hawwe mear leard oer de mooglikheden en foardielen fan in meartalige opfieding en ûnderwiis.



Toolkit Update

Wilens it skoaljier 2010-2011, hawwe ferskillende beoefeners yn de fjouwer minderheidsregio's de MELT toolkit ymplementearre binnen harren ynstellings. De MELT projekt mentors hawwe harren lêste beistes oan de foarskoalske ynstellings folbrocht en it gebrûk fan de toolkit is evaluerre.

Nei oanlieding fan feedback fan de evaluaasjeformulieren en oerlis tusken alle mentors, waard besletten dat de toolkit herstrukturearre en wat herskreaun wurde moast.

Dizze wizigings waarden opnommen en de toolkit wurdt no in gids, in ringbânmap mei njoggen blokken, dy twatalich (bygelyks Frysk en Nederlânsk) presintearre wurde op eltse pagina. Liedsters fan foarskoalske ynstellings kinne de blokken op harren iegen wize en yn willekeurige folchoarder brûke.

Dizze gids befettet taalûntwikkelings-aktiviteiten en taaladvizen bestimd foar begjinnend persoanlik fan alle foarskoalske ynstellings; bernedei-ferbliuwen, pjutteboartersplakken, kresjens en oare professionals dy't wurkje mei jonge bern fan 0-4 jier en te krijen hawwe mei twataligens. Dizze gids kin brûkt wurde om ideeën te krijen om in

much more about the opportunities and advantages of a multilingual upbringing and education.



Toolkit Update

During 2010-11, several practitioners in the four minority regions have implemented the MELT toolkit within their settings. The MELT project tutors have completed their visits to the pre-school settings and the use of the toolkit is now in its evaluation period.

Following feedback received from the evaluation forms and discussions held between all four mentors, it was decided that the toolkit should be restructured and edited somewhat.

These changes included serving the toolkit as a binding folder with all blocks presented bilingually on each page. This will allow pre-school teachers to use these blocks in their own way, and in any order they feel comfortable doing so.

This guide containing bilingual language development activities is intended for the whole pre-school setting; the pre-school practitioners in nurseries, playgroups, day care centers and other pre-school professionals dealing with bilingualism and young children from 0 - 4 years. You can use this guide for ideas to create a supportive and rich language environment in

ûndersteunende en rike taalomjouwing te kreëarjen yn de bernesinde. We hoopje dat de liedsters dy't mei dizze map wurkje taal as in yntegraal ûnderdiel fan de foarskoalske aktiviteiten meitsje.

De definitive ferzje fan de gids is no klear om printe te wurden. Dizze map sil oerset wurde yn acht talen en presintearre wurde op de lêste MELT konferinsje yn Brussel, ek sille se fanôf Septimber online beskikber wêze.

MELT Einkonferinsje

It MELT projekt wurdt ôfslúten op tongersdei 6 oktober 2011 yn de stêd Brussel. Dizze lêste konferinsje wurdt yn gearwurking organisearre troch it Mercator Europeesk Kennisintrum foar Meartaligens en Taalleren (Fryslân), Folkhalsan (Finlân), de Welsh Language Board (Wales), Divskouarn en de Region Council of Brittany (Bretagne).

Op de konferinsje sille in tal fan sprekkers wêze, wêrûnder:

- **Kinga Gal** (Europeesk Parlemint, co-foarsitter fan Intergroep EP foar tradisjonele minderheden, nasjonale mienskippen en talen)
- **Alexey Kozhemyakov** (Rie fan Europa, ekspert op it mêd fan minsk en taalrjochten, haad fan it sekretariaat fan it Europeesk Hânfest foar regionale en minderheidstalen)
- **Jannewietske de Vries** (Fryske minister fan Finansjes, Rekreasje, Toerisme, Taal en kultuur)
- **Lena Louarn** (vice-president foar talen fan Bretagne)
- **Annick De Houwer** (België - ekspert op it mêd fan twadde taal ferwerving by jonge bern en

the day care for children. We hope that, to make language work as an integral part of pre-school activities, everyone will be included in this work and that you will continue to work with the language topics we give you for a longer period of time.

The final version of the toolkit has now been drafted and will be printed soon. This will be translated into eight languages with hard copies available from September. These will be presented at the final MELT conference in Brussels.

MELT Project Final Conference

The MELT Project's closing conference will be held on Thursday 6 October, 2011 in the charming city of Brussels. This final conference is jointly organised by the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (Fryslân), Folkhalsan (Finland), the Welsh Language Board (Wales), Divskouarn and the Region Council of Brittany.

The conference will have several guest speakers including:

- **Kinga Gal** (European Parliament, Co-chair of Intergroup EP for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages)
- **Alexey Kozhemyakov** (Council of Europe, Expert Human and Linguistic Rights, Head of the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages)
- **Jannewietske de Vries** (Frisian Minister of Finance, Recreation, Tourism, Language and Culture)
- **Lena Louarn** (Vice-president for languages of Brittany)
- **Annick de Houwer** (Belgium – Expert Early Bilingualism)

attitude fan âlden)

- **Gunilla Holm** (Finland, Helsinki Universiteit - ekspert op it mêd fan twataligens foarskoalskûnderwiis)

De MELT produkten, dy yn acht talen oerset binnem sille presintearre wurde op dizze konferinsje. It giet om:

- Een toolkit (praktyske gids) foar begjinnende beoefeners om harren feardigens en ekspertize te ferbetterjen en om jonge bern taalaktiviteiten yn in minderheidstaal oan te bieden.
- In brosjure foar jonge âlden. Dizze brosjure mei ûntwikkelingsfasen en –tips giet oer in twa- of meartalige opfieding yn in minderheidsregio.
- In ûndersykspaper mei teoretyske eftergrûn oer it learen fan talen op jonge leeftiid yn in meartalige omjouwing. Dit ûndersyk befettet goede strategyen en foarbylden fan it ûnder dompeljen fan bern yn in minderheidstaal.

De fokus fan de konferinsje sil lizze op de berikte resultaten en produkten foar safier, de suksessen, oanbefellings en de takomstige útdagings yn de meartalige minderheidstaalferwerving sille besprutsen wurden. De leden fan de NPLD, leden fan it MELT projekt, leden fan it Europeesk Parlemint en de Rie fan Europa, ûndersykers, deskundigen, beliedsmakkers, professionals en oare belanghawwers sille noege wurde foar de konferinsje.

De einkonferinsje jout de mooglikheid foar diskusje en fierder ûndersyk en foar takomstige gearwurkingen. Mei as doel om oan in duorsume meartalige trochgeande line fan it pjutteplak, beukerskoalle oant primêr en foarset ûnderwiis te wurkjen en âlden en liedsters bewust te meitsjen fan it brûken fan de minderheidstaal yn harren deistige libben.

Developments and parents' attitudes)

- **Gunilla Holm** (Finland – Expert on education for day care pedagogies at the bilingual Helsinki University)

Many products, which have been translated into eight languages, will be presented at this conference. These will include:

- A toolkit (practical guide) for early years practitioners in order to improve their skills and expertise to introduce a minority language to young children.
- An awareness raising brochure aimed at young parents. This brochure deals with questions regarding bilingual or multilingual upbringing in a minority language setting.
- A research paper with theoretical background on early language learning in a multilingual environment and best practices and strategies in immersing children in a minority language.

The conference will focus on the achieved results and products thus far, in addition to the successes, recommendations and future challenges in multilingual early language transmission. Members of the NPLD and MELT project, European Parliament and Council of Europe members, researchers, experts, policy makers, practitioners and other interested parties will all be invited to the conference.

The conference aims to provide opportunities for discussion on further research and future collaborations to continue a sustainable multilingual pathway from pre-school to primary and secondary schools and the conscious choice of parents and practitioners to speak and use the minority language in their daily lives.

As jo ynteressearre binne en dizze konferinsje bywenje wolle, stjoer dan in e-mail nei info@meltproject.eu

Fanôf july, sil der in ynskriuwformulier beskikber wêze op ús webside www.meltproject.eu.

In ferslach fan de einkonfersinsje sil te lêzen wêze yn de folgjende MELT nijsbrief, dy yn oktober ferskine sil.

Foar mear ynformaasje, besykje www.meltproject.eu

of

click [here](#) to visit MELT on Facebook.



Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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If you are interested in attending this important conference, please e-mail us at info@meltproject.eu. From July onwards, a registration form will be available on our website www.meltproject.eu.

A report on the final conference will be available as part of the final MELT newsletter which will be released in October.

For further information, visit www.meltproject.eu

or

click [here](#) to visit MELT on Facebook.



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