

Between two different cultures in conflict management at school

Kirkonkulma Primary School Hämeenlinna

Anu Virta, class teacher
Ulla Sara-aho, headmaster



Kirkonkulma Primary School

”The Primary school at the corner of the church”

- 260 pupils, age 7-12
- 20 staff members
- Kirkonkulma Primary School was founded in 1865
- The school is situated in the middle of a forest although it is an urban school



Restorative practices changing the school culture

- Peer mediation started 2008
- Restorative culture change in the whole school since 2010
- Circles in classrooms and staff meetings
- Weekly 2 - 3 cases in peer mediation
- Monthly 2 – 4 cases in adult-led mediation

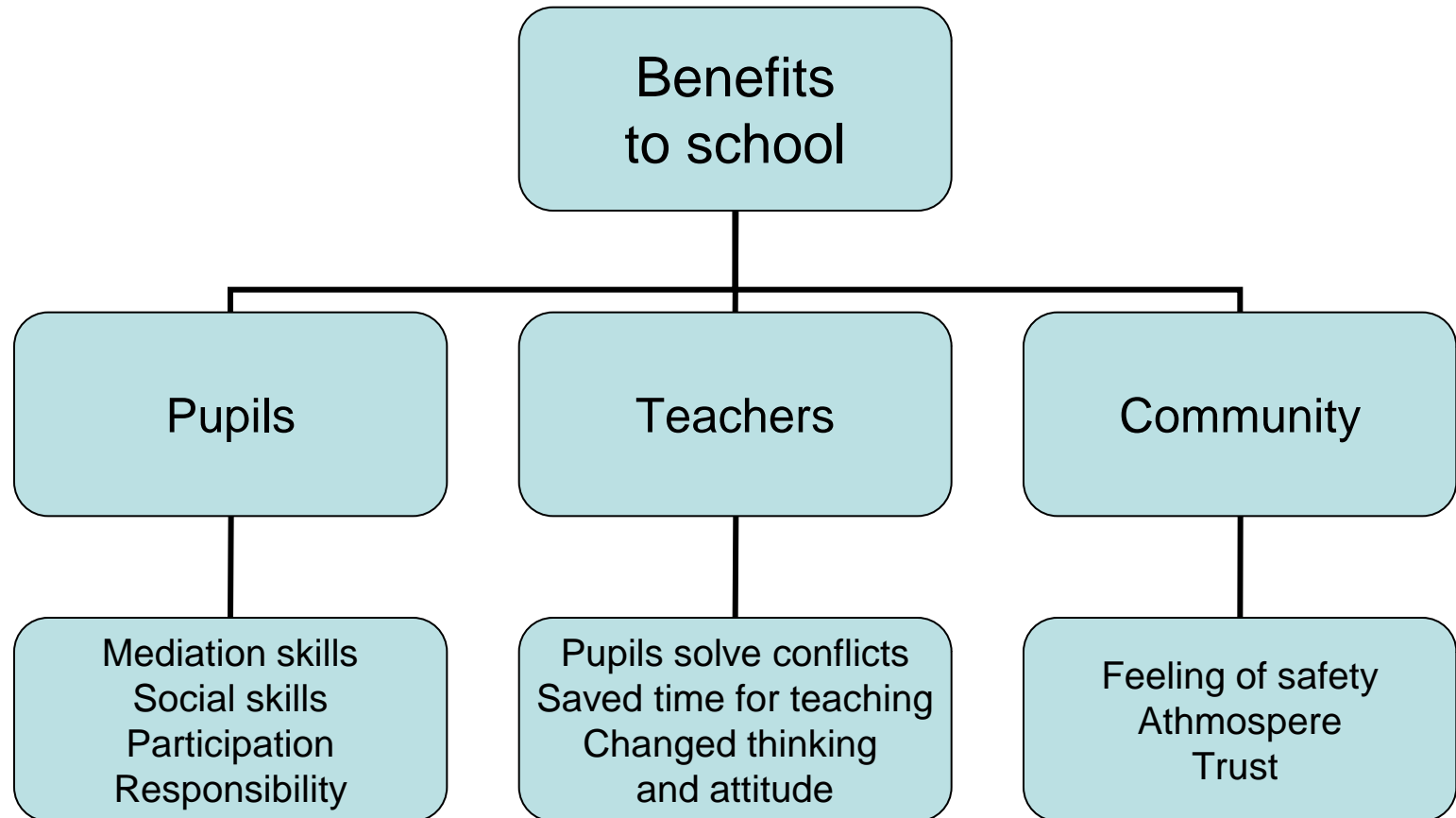


Challenges & success

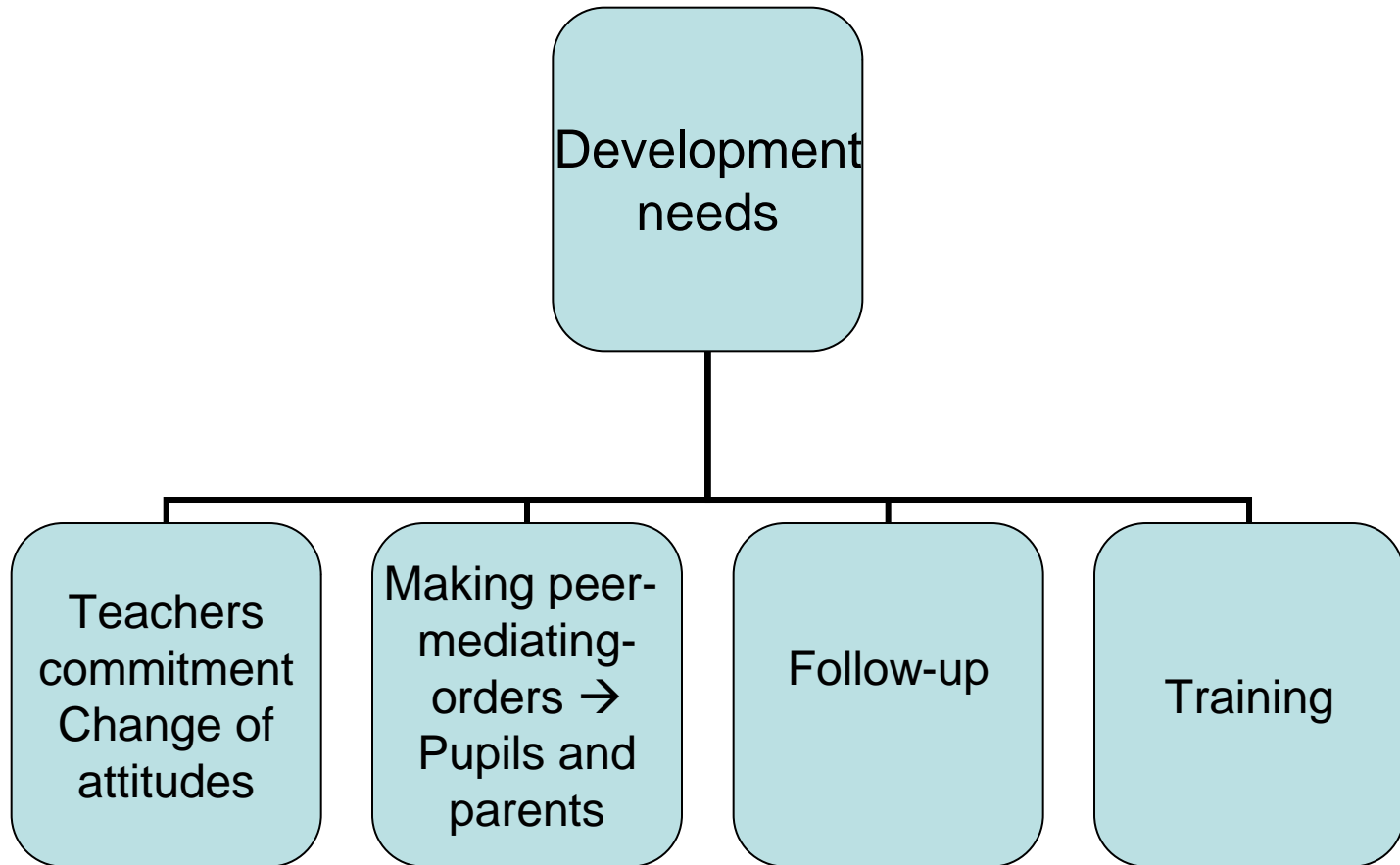
- Major challenges
 - two cultures parallel
 - sometimes parents of the children ask for punishment
- Major successes
 - tool for dealing with staff problems
 - tool for dealing with pupils' problems
 - tool for meeting the parents
 - school is developing towards a more safe, respectful, trusty and open atmosphere
 - all teachers will participate in restorative training



Annukka Kääriäinen: The meaning of peer mediation to school culture (2012),
Masters Thesis



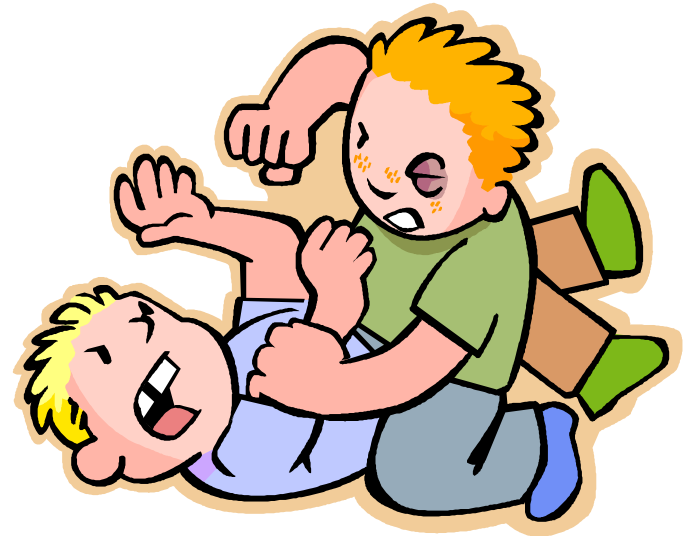
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Case: Ville and Kalle

Ville pushed Kalle
during the break
at school.

Kalle was hurt.



Two different ways to find a solution to the conflict

Teacher:

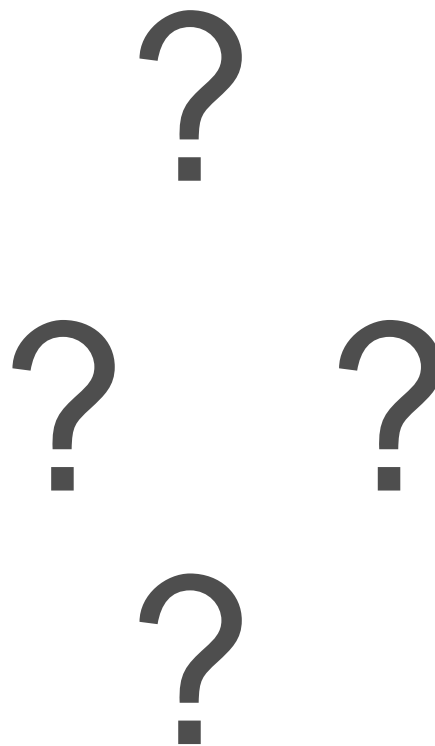
- Kalle! Why did you push Ville?
- Dont you see that Ville is hurt and he does not like what you did?
- "Everytime I see you, something bad happens"
- When are you going to learn?
- You have to apologize to Ville?
- Shake hands now, and say you are sorry.
- And never do this again.
- Next time I hear you doing something bad, you will be punished really hard.

Teacher:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking?
- How did you feel?
- Who was affected?
- What do you need to get things back to normal?
- What can you promise?

Think with your neighbours

- What do you think about teachers' actions?
- How were children's needs met in two different models?
- What needs were met in mediation?
- What are the teachers' roles?
- How much information about the conflict does a teacher need before solving the problem?



Joy of learning 😊



Hämeenlinnan kaupunki

Kirkonkulman koulu

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Kiitos!

