



BELONG

Belong Final Report October 2017



CULTURE SHIFT

photo by Lotus Photography



photo by Lotus Photography

‘When you feel you belong, it is OK to do something different’

- Belong Young Artist

THE BELONG STORY

Once upon a time there was a bed. You might expect the bed to be in a bedroom, but it was not. The bed was comfortable. The bed was safe. The bed was hyggeligt.

On the bed was a big, blank, square sheet, with a red thread hanging from it. A child arrived at the bed having followed the thread from Lithuania. Soon after, a child from America came, followed by children from Denmark, Korea, Mexico, Syria and Africa. In fact, children from all four corners of the world followed the red thread to this bed.

After travelling so far they were tired, so they climbed into bed to tell each other stories about where they had come from and where they were going to. As they told these stories their words and dreams became images across the cover and soon it was filled with colour.

Night fell and it began to get colder. Some of the children grew scared and they needed a roof over their heads. So they worked together to create a shelter using the bed sheet of stories and the red threads and they were proud of what they had created.

Surrounded by their stories, dreams and new-found friends their red threads wove together to create a strong bond and the children

felt like they could 



photo by Lotus Photography

Belong is a creative project that brings Danish, international and refugee children together through a collaborative, art and making experience to explore their ideas of identity and belonging.

From February to September 2017, Culture Shift worked in partnership with children, teachers and parents in four communities in the triangle region in Denmark, investigating different ways of working in response to local requirements.

This is their Belong story. It started with a bed; a safe, transitional space to explore from. The bed had a strong frame, built with care, compassion and creativity to support the children and create a space where dreams, art, fun and friendships could flourish.

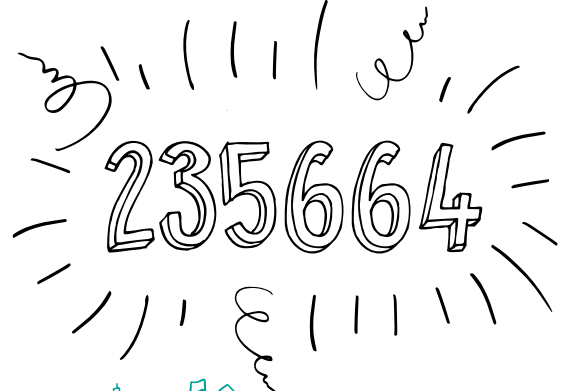
The bed was a little different each time. Purposely unmade, it was built with the community to fit well with the space it was in. The bed knew it might be seen by others at the end, but did not know how it would look, or what story it would tell, sure only that this would spring from the children and be their ideas and creation.

This report isn't really bedtime reading, but we hope that you can take a moment to get a drink, make yourself comfortable, then read on to find out more about the creative children and adults who jumped onto the bed with us and what we all learned together.

While you are at it, fancy a biscuit too?

Lucy, Amanda and Rachel





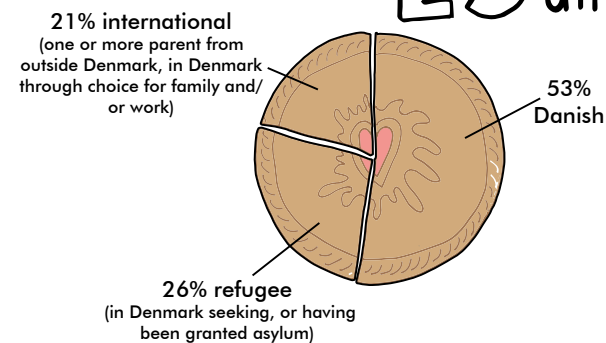
Confused? That's 'Belong' in numbers

At the start of the project we set some targets about how many children we would work with, where we would work and how many workshops and exhibitions we would have. We met all our targets. Here is the numbers bit to get it out of the way early on.

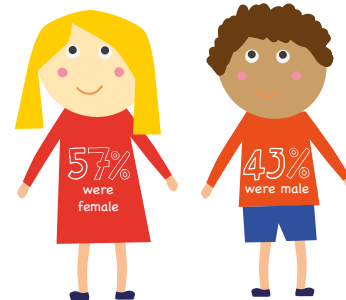


worked with a total of **134** children  aged **8-12** in **4** locations- Vobasse, Billund, Jelling and Kolding 

The children came from **25** different nationalities



Country of origin included: Australia, Chechnya, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Greenland, Holland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Lithuania, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Congo, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey.



A total of **19** supporting adults (teachers and parents) were involved in the workshops and the final exhibitions and events were attended by **1239** people (children and adults).

We ran **33** workshops, had **4** exhibitions and **3** celebration events with live music. 

We used....

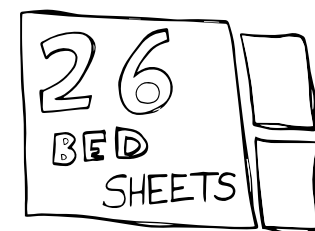
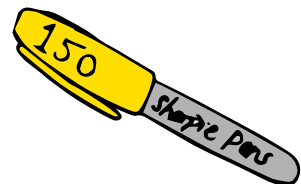


photo by Lotus Photography

'To build group identity after only three weeks is quite something'

- Community Leader, Vorbasse



photo by Culture Shift



photo by Lotus Photography

In Vorbasse there was a focus on bringing together local children with the refugee children who had moved to the town a year earlier. Belong provided a space for both groups of children to meet after school hours. Vorbasse has many established sports clubs, but at the time had no after school activities where children could be creative and Belong provided an outlet for this.

Participants: 16 children and 1 parent at the workshops, 60 people at the exhibition opening

Partners: Den Dynamiske Landsby, a local community development organisation

Facilitators: Culture Shift core team and a parent volunteer at all sessions, Jeremy Watts for Silly Speak

Where: 'Loftet' youth room at Vorbasse Fritidscentre

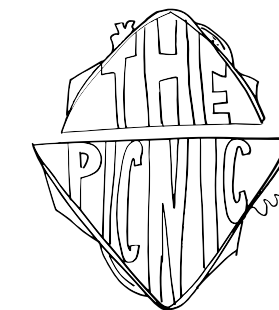
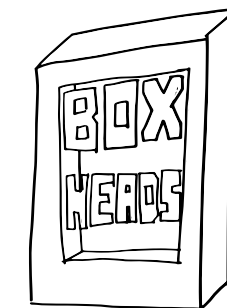
Reaching Participants: Vorbasse social media sites, posters in the community, information to parents via school

Structure: Weekly, two-hour workshops from 15.00 - 17.00, over seven weeks from February to March

Workshops: Boxheads, The Picnic, Silly Speak, Dream Journey (3D), Design, Explore and Build (3 weeks)

Exhibition: Community opening event, then on display in the library for two weeks.

VORBASSE



BILLUND

my name is...

THE PICNIC

BOX MAPS

Continued...

DRØMME
REJSE

BELONGINGS

SETUP
CAMP

Udstilling!
Exhibition!

Recently there has been a rapid growth in the international population in Billund and the community is interested in finding ways for Danes and internationals to meet. In Billund the aim was to bring together two schools – Billundskolen and the International School of Billund. Whilst the schools are very close geographically, there have been few opportunities for children to collaborate together on joint projects.

Participants: 49 children and 6 teachers at the workshops, 200 people at the exhibition

Partners: International School of Billund and BillundSkolen

Facilitators: Culture Shift core team plus Kara Lochridge and Ambra Molinari (intern)

Where: The theatre hall in Billund Centret and Billund Sports Centre

Reaching Participants: The children were selected to take part by the schools. There were two classes from the International school and one class from Billund Skole.

Structure: Weekly, two-hour workshops from 9.30-11.30, over seven weeks from April to June

Workshops: My name is, The Picnic, Box Maps (2 weeks), Dream Journey (2D), Belongings, Camp Belong

Exhibition: Parents were invited to an hour-long, after-school event in Billund Centret to view the work.

‘It has been good to work with the other teachers. We work in the same town but we never work together’

- Teacher, Billund



photo by Lotus Photography



photo by Ambra Molinari



photo by Lotus Photography



photo by Ambra Molinari

‘We have created not just us and them, but just an us’

- Teacher, Jelling



photo by Ambra Molinari



photo by Lotus Photography

The Red Cross Asylum Center and Jelling Friskole are within a short walk of each other and were keen to collaborate but had not had the opportunity to do so before Belong. Their aim was to try to connect the local community through the event and they approached the project as a catalyst for future work together. The Jelling and Billund workshops ran parallel to each other enabling the children to send video messages and postcards to each other over several sessions. Belong Jelling included a music programme, enabling older children to connect through their passion. The concert included covers and original work, in Danish, English and Arabic, on the theme of home.

Participants: 35 children and 6 teachers at the workshops, 200 people at the celebration event

Partners: Jelling Friskole and the Jelling Red Cross Asylum Centre

Facilitators: Culture Shift core team plus Mike Sullivan (music) and Ambra Molinari (intern)

Where: The Remida Centre in Jelling and the music room at the Red Cross Centre

Reaching Participants: The children were selected to take part by the schools.

Structure: There were two parts to the project. The art sessions were weekly, two and a half hour workshops from 9.30-12.30. The music sessions were bi-weekly, one hour workshops. Both took place over seven weeks from May to June.

Workshops: Box heads, The Picnic, Dream Journey (3D), Making friends, Photo walk, My Town Map

Exhibition: Parents and the community were invited to an after-school concert and exhibition event at Jelling Friskole.

Udstilling!
Exhibition!

Your Jelling

Photo
walk

JELLING

BOX
HEADS

THE
PICNIC

DRØMME
REJSE

Making
Friends

KOLDING

Belong Fabrik at Nicolai for Børn

Belong was in residence at Nicolai for Børn, for a week in September. This was the culmination of the 2017 project and included school and public workshops, events and an exhibition featuring work from all four communities. Nicolai were celebrating their ten year anniversary and Belong used a party theme for the week.

The final workshop series in Kolding brought together a Danish municipality school (Sdr. Vang Skole) and a Danish school that receives newcomer children (Munkevængets Skole). Nicolai for Børn is a stimulating and creative environment for play and learning and it didn't take long for the two groups to begin collaborating and sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Participants: 34 children and 5 teachers at the workshops, 779 people at the exhibition and events

Partners: Munkevængets Skole, Sdr. Vang Skole and Nicolai for Børn

Facilitators: Culture Shift core team

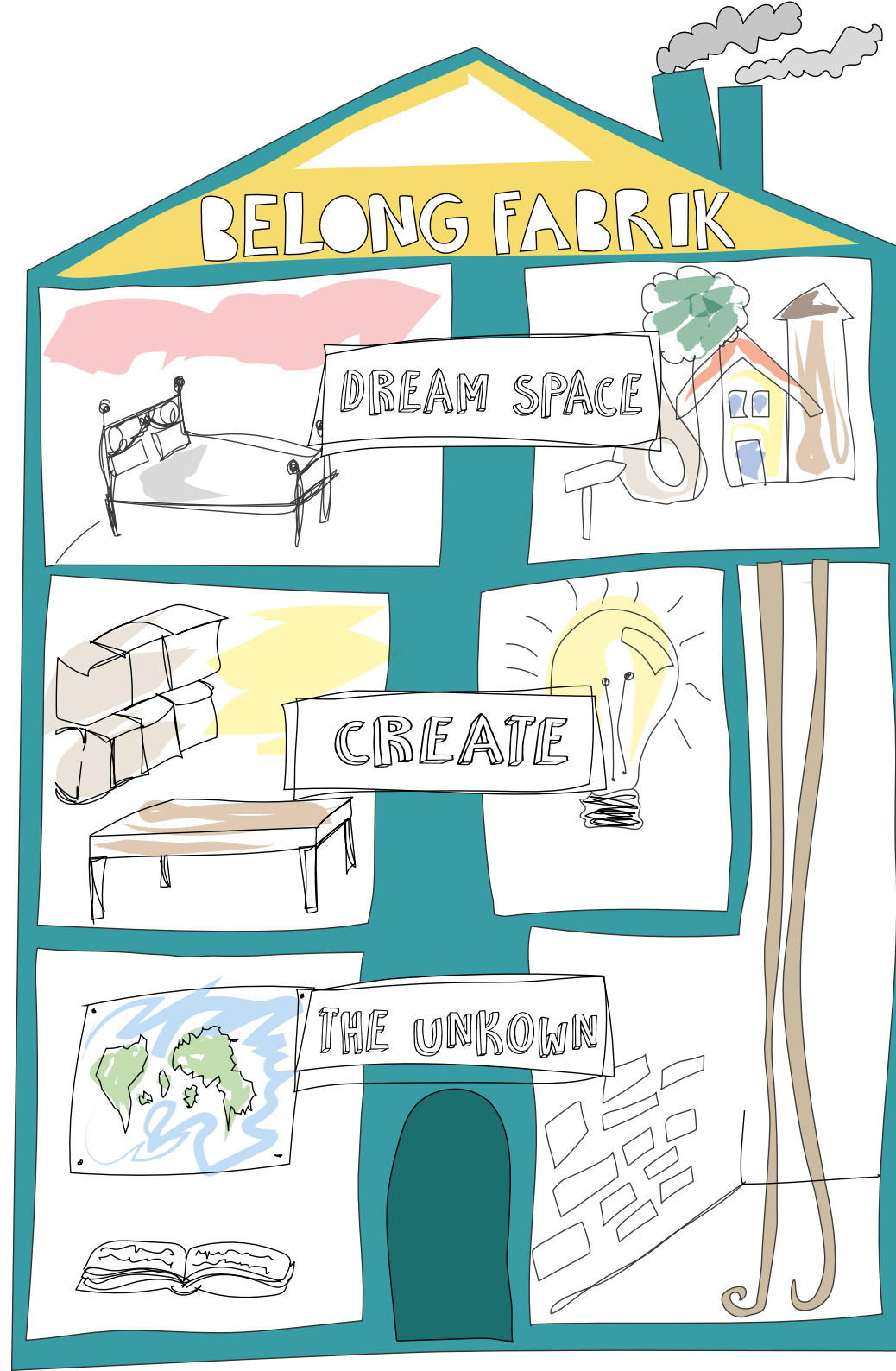
Where: Nicolai for Børn, a children's cultural centre

Reaching Participants: The children were selected to take part by the schools.

Structure: Daily, two and a half-hour workshops, from 9.30 – 12.00 for three days over a week in September, with a party on the fourth day

Workshops: Dream Journey (2D), Belong Story Book Bed, Making Friends

Exhibition: Parents and the community were invited to attend the Belong Picnic event



Belong Drømmefest/ Dream Party

At the end of the week, the children were invited to celebrate their achievements at the dream party. The children came in fancy dress and were entertained by live music from Fantasimaskinen. The group premiered the Belong Song, commissioned for the event with lyrics inspired by the children's ideas of belonging.



Belong Picnic

In contrast to the high energy of the party, the afternoon picnic was a hyggelig (cosy) affair. Families of the Belong Kolding children and members of the public were invited to see the children's work, share a picnic and make art together. The Kolding Integrationskor (Integration Choir), with members from around the world, performed Danish and world songs and invited everyone to join them in a children's clapping song.

Exhibition

The Belong exhibition featured work from Billund, Jelling, Vorbasse and Kolding, alongside other objects related to the project, placed around Nicolai for Børn as play prompts. This included a double bed, a tent with books and Belong suitcases with items young explorers might like on a journey, such as binoculars and teddy bears.



Public workshops

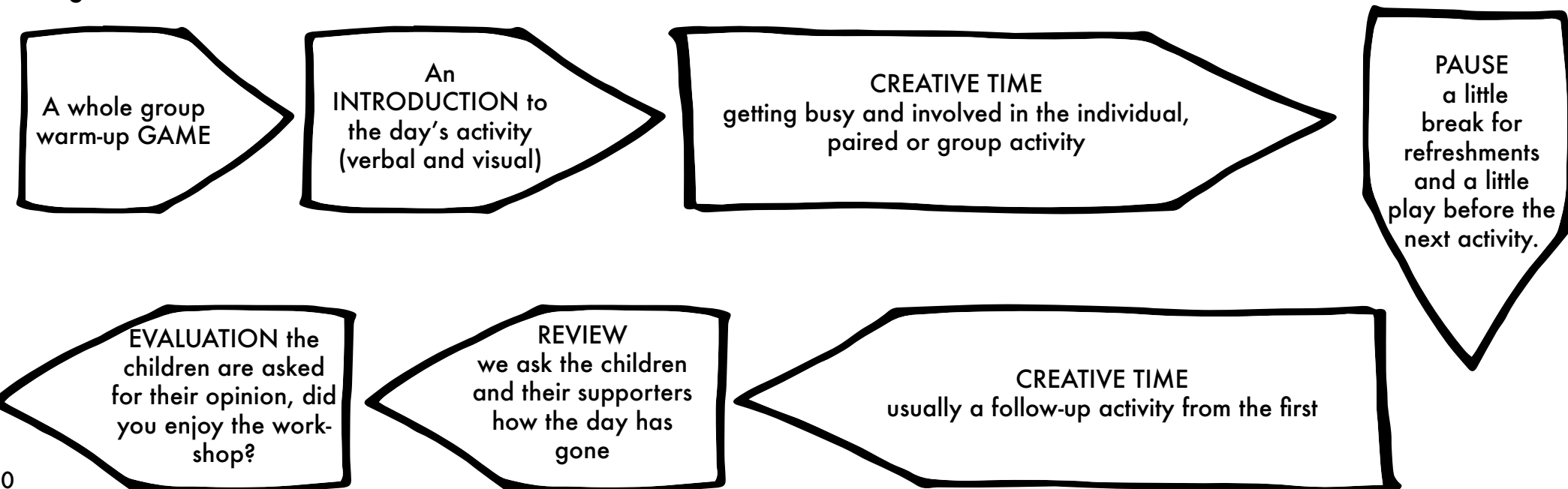
At the Children's Culture Day and Nicolai anniversary event, children were invited to create art on the Belong bed.

WORKSHOPS

The Belong workshops differed in content, but we kept the 'flow' of the workshops the same each time. At the start of Belong, the introductory workshops had been mapped out, then we developed and adapted the rest during the seven-week runs, based on the participants' ideas and available resources. Each workshop series was therefore different according to the needs of the group. Workshop plans were shared with participating adults prior to the session. Throughout each workshop the leaders kept observation notes, asked the children and their supporters questions, took photographs and discussed key issues and points, so that we could be well-informed about what should be included in the coming sessions. Because we continuously listen, review and respond, we are able to change plans quickly if necessary, or add in new things so that it meets the needs of the children and participating adults. A workshop is not 'set in stone' the day the plan is written, it is an organic process that evolves as we work more and more with the children and the community.

Belong used many recycled materials, sourced from Skatkammeret in Kolding and Remida in Jelling – centres for creativity, design and reuse.

'It's nice to make things you can only imagine in your mind'
- Belong Young Artist



Introductory workshops



My name is
Drawing self-portraits and interests on the bed sheet

photo by Ambra Molinari



voted best workshop- Vorbasses and Billund!

The Picnic
Sharing food, making messy art on the bed sheet, decorating crockery

photo by Ambra Molinari



Silly Speak
Playing with words and drawing sounds

photo by Culture Shift



Box heads
Creating a 3D portrait and interests in a box frame

photo by Culture Shift

Development workshops- collaborative



voted best workshop- Kolding!

Making Friends
Making life-size friends and their interests

photo by Ambra Molinari



photo by Lotus Photography

Box Maps
Creating 3D maps of a collaborative, imagined/real place

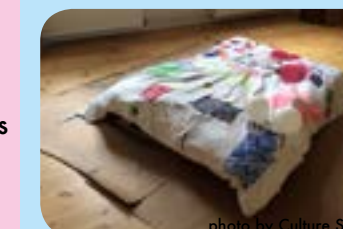


photo by Culture Shift

Belong story book bed
Creating stories on duvet covers, sewn together to make a 'book'



photo by Ambra Molinari

Photo Walk
Using 'old' cameras to capture the best bits of your town



photo by Ambra Molinari

Design and explore
Exploring material properties and making a children's town



photo by Ambra Molinari

My Town Map
Using collage, photographs and drawings to create a real/imagined town map

Development workshops- individual



Belongings
Making the belongings you need to feel at home in a new place

photo by Ambra Molinari



voted best workshop- Jelling!

Dream Journey (2D and 3D)
Guided journey meditation to a special place, creating a 2D journey or 3D place.

photo by Ambra Molinari



photo by Culture Shift

Camp Belong
Using all the work created to set up a camp exhibition

SO, HOW DID IT GO AND HOW DO WE KNOW?

Belong was...

creative, different, cosy, safe, fun, focussed, welcoming, awesome, calm, inspiring, exciting, silly and togetherness.

Remember those numbers at the start? It's good to have targets and know that Belong was 'good value for money'. But the true value of a project is in the difference that it has made and we also set out some changes that we hoped participants would achieve through Belong, based on our project values of community, creativity, compassion and contribution.

Before the project started, we shared these with the partners and asked them what they wanted to gain from Belong – for the children, for themselves and for their organisations, so that their ideas could be incorporated into the 'success criteria'.

During the project we reviewed each week with a shared reflection to find out what had gone well, what could be better and what could be changed in the future. We asked the children to evaluate the overall experience by placing a sticker on a visual, ratings chart.

At the end of the project, the final workshop included evaluation activities where the children were asked to respond to questions about their experience by drawing, writing, or placing stickers on images or simple yes/no answers.

The feedback from the teachers and community leaders was that Belong was a well-managed and well-communicated project, where they were clear about the project aims, clear about their roles and felt involved in the process.

'It's a great model for how different groups can come together in a neutral place and work together on something new', Teacher

'Learning new ways of doing things using art and creativity has been good', Teacher



The children and adults told us that Belong had successfully helped the children to:

Make new friends and get to know people who are different from themselves

The project fostered new friendships both between children from different schools and between children from the same school, as they were able to play and work with children they might not usually get a chance to. Some children took this beyond the project and arranged a playdate. Four schools indicated that they would arrange follow up meetings between the children.

'Now the kids see each other on the street and they recognise and say hi to each other' -Teacher, Jelling

Learn words in a new language

Non-native speakers heard and picked up words in Danish and English, some also had the confidence to try speaking. In Jelling the children learned songs in Danish, English and Arabic. All the children were introduced to new vocabulary relating to visual arts and making.

Try something new

Many of the workshop activities were new to the children for example, the picnic was a popular workshop because **'I have never drawn with food before'** -Belong Young Artist

Have fun

The majority of the children (80-100%) consistently rated the workshops as fun and enjoyable. **'It was really fun and fun to create'** -Belong Young Artist

Develop their creative skills

The children thought creatively about use of materials and design to express their ideas and create individual and collaborative art. For some this involved using new tools and techniques, for others this involved negotiating, overcoming frustrations and challenging themselves. **'I learnt that you can make something out of abstract materials'** -Belong Young Artist.

Be proud of their own and the group's achievements

The children commented that they were either proud of something they or the group had created, or that they were proud of themselves or their friends for an attribute such as teamwork. In Vorbasse one child gave a speech at the exhibition telling their community how proud they were of what they had made together. **'It was great that we could make tents so quickly with just sticks and tape'** -Belong Young Artist

Give and receive help and feedback

In all the areas we worked, children were observed providing support to others when they were struggling with design ideas or execution. The majority of children were able to share their thoughts, ideas and feedback in the review sessions. **'I learnt how to communicate with others, otherwise the map would be a mess'** -Belong Young Artist

Suggestions for improvement mainly focused on time e.g. to increase the length of the workshops, and materials e.g. to provide more black, brown and red sharpies. In Billund, some children commented that the 'adults talked too much', lessening the time they had to get on with the activity.

BUILDING A STRONG BED FRAME

It was important to us that the children taking part in Belong felt ownership of the project and were able to express themselves freely. Prior to Belong starting, we considered the different elements of the project that could impact on whether favourable conditions to enable this were created, or not. When they worked best, these elements created a strong and flexible framework, ensuring that Belong was an authentic, appropriate and quality experience.

Communication and roles

We expect participating adults to be hands-on. It is valuable for everyone to get together prior to the workshops starting and have 'check-in' sessions during the project, to review and forward plan. This allows the team to get to know each other, discuss and agree shared aims, work out common vocabulary and group management techniques, raise awareness of any support requirements and address any concerns. Understanding the parameters for the project and team roles allows participating adults to be more relaxed in the workshops and enjoy experimenting with art too.

'The planning and review meetings worked well and we felt that we could say what would help our kids in the workshops', Teacher

Language

As 3 non-native Danish speakers there was sometimes a need for translation. Participating adults were invaluable in supporting the children's language skills. Using the visual instructions provided a way to get ideas across without the need for language understanding. There was often a young person in the group who was willing to translate too – for example in Vorbasse one of the boys took on this role and we saw his confidence grow as the workshops progressed.

'(Language) doesn't matter, as long as people smile', Belong Young Artist

Room to work

It is not about how big or small the space is, it's about using what you have creatively, being prepared to be flexible, creating work areas that support the flow of the workshop and checking if there are any individual circumstances that need to be considered. For example, we had one participant who didn't enjoy the noise levels in a large room filled with children and required additional breakout space to work in comfortably. A place with in/ outdoor space to play in during a break is great!

Group size

To achieve a 'cosy' feel and promote discussion and reflective learning, we recommend a maximum group size of 30, an even match of participants from different schools and an adult to child ratio of at least 1:5. Larger groups are feasible but need additional adult support to allow for working in smaller groups where everyone can have their say.

Workshop flow

Keeping the flow of the workshops similar each time and easing into the project with the introductory workshops enabled the groups to get to know each other and relax into the work. The end of workshop review and evaluation helped the children to reflect on themselves, their work and the project and created a sense of ownership. **'The fact that they (the children) were participating in the group discussions showed how comfortable they were feeling',** Teacher

Materials

We were able to provide a range of interesting materials at low cost through becoming members of Skatkammeret in Kolding. This meant that the children had to think creatively in order to transform and repurpose the materials into something new. Some of the most popular items were keyboard keys, cardboard circles, and cupcake cases.

'There's some pretty cool stuff in here to make with', Belong Young Artist

We had ongoing PROCESS debates about:

How, when and if to encourage working together e.g. in pairs or small groups, across the groups. This worked best when it happened organically, or with judicious support from the teachers. Sometimes it was enough to be working 'apart' in known groups or individually, whilst working 'together' towards a common aim.

When and if it was appropriate to 'model' a technique or idea to support skills development or open up imaginative possibilities, or when this could be restrictive.

A strong bed frame enables the participants to make the bed their own way and engage in ways that are often surprising.

'One boy can be a bit pushy with the other kids back in school. Here the rules have changed and he is not in charge. He is co-operating with the others and being part of the group.', Teacher

'even though things might be hard for the kids back at home or school, at Belong they have been able to forget about problems and focus on the art and that is priceless', Teacher

'(child) is usually so quiet and doesn't want to be part of a group, but (the child) wanted to come every week', Parent

'One boy usually doesn't like to do art things. He gives up easily and will do everything but get on with the task. Here he is involved, focussing and enjoying himself. He is creating some good things', Teacher

OOOH. BELONG IN THE NEWS

Belong was featured in the following media:

Vorbasse.dk
18 & 26 March

JydskeVestkysten jv.dk
19, 24 & 25 March. 16 May. 29 August.

Vejle Amts Folkeblad vafo.dk
19 & 25 March. 29 May. 1 & 22 June.

Billund UgeAvis ugeavisen.dk/billundugeavis
19 March. 15 & 30 May. 20 June.

Billund Online billundonline.dk
20 March. 16 & 29 May.

Kolding UgeAvis ugeavisen.dk/kolding
29 August

BUPL, Børn og Unge bupl.dk/fagbladet_boern_og_unge
Issue 12, 15 August, page 33. Issue 15, 27 September, page 25.

TV Syd, Nyheder tvsyd.dk
8 September, kl. 19.30

Excerpt from BUPL article, Børn og Unge bupl.dk/fagbladet_boern_og_unge Issue 12, 15 August, page 33. Issue 15, 27 September, page 25.

LÆR AF OS
Hvorfor opfinde alting forfra? Lær af dine kollegers erfaringer med projekter og forløb med børn og unge.



Det ambitiøse kulturprojekt Belong i Billund, Jelling, Vorbasse og Kolding skal få børn af forskellig nationalitet til sammen at arbejde med og tænke over, hvad det vil sige at høre til. Tre britiske kvinder har stået for projektet.

Af Kurt Salte Jensen, bupl@bupl.dk

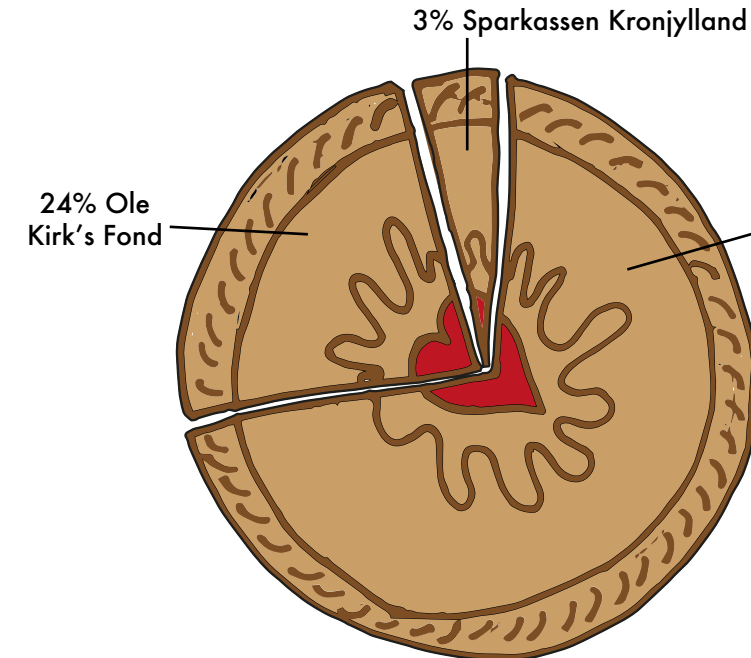
Vores råd til andre

- Forskellen mellem et godt og et rigtig godt projekt er, om der er tid nok til at planlægge, forbedre og skabe et fælles formål, hvor børnene er i centrum, og hvor arbejdet er præget af humor og fleksibilitet.
- Der findes ingen facitliste. Projektet har været gennemført på forskellig vis i Billund, Jelling og Vorbasse. Indholdet i workshops afhænger helt af de involverede, af børnenes idéer og udfordringer.

WHAT IT COST

The total budget for Belong was 350200 dkk

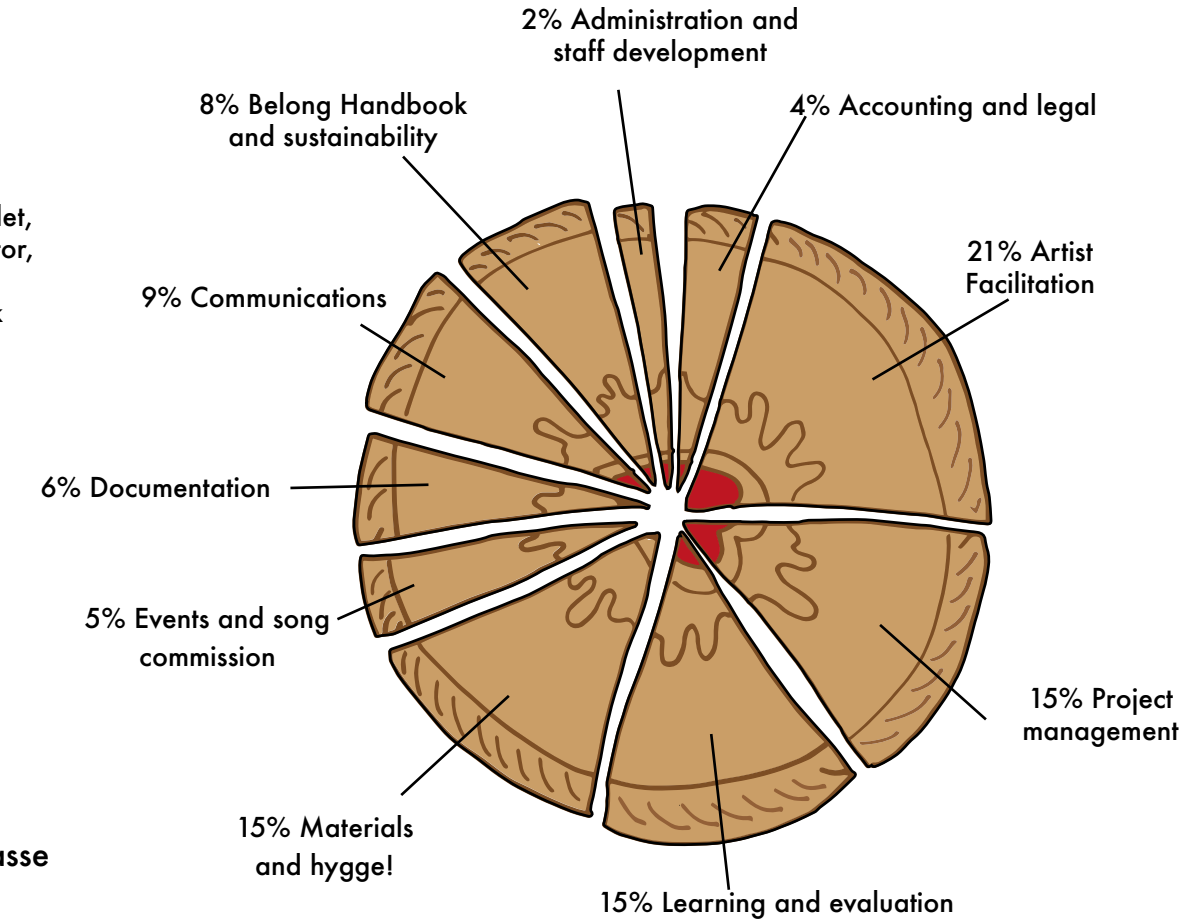
Funding was provided by



The project was also supported in kind by Nicolai for Børn, Centerrevision, Billund Erhvervsfremme, Billund Centret and Vorbasse Fritidscenter.

Thank you to all our funders and supporters.

We spent this on





‘When you feel happy, it is in the heart’

- Belong Young Artist

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BELONGED WITH US THIS YEAR.

Belong young artists

Billund

Ada Adrian Alex Andreas Anton Baran Benjamin Carl
Catalina Celina Chloe Dora Else Emma Frederick Iben Jacob
Jasmine Julie H Julie M Julie S Kaipin Lærke Lauge Lola Luka
Lukas Maithe Malou Marcus Mathilde J Mathilde P Mattias
Maya Millie Milo Niko Ophelia Rasmus Rufus Sara Sejer
Silja Simon Storm Thomas H Thomas J Tom Yago

Jelling

Alma Amir Andrij Anton Asia Astrid Cody Dooea Ehsan
Faye Hema Holger Husein Karar Khadija Kirstine Lucas Ma-
rie Rebecca Retaj Roselil Sofie Yussra

Kolding

Anna Clara Daniel Eilah Emma Freya Hani Hania Issam
Jennifer Karen Kathrine Kion Leonora Lilas Magnus Malou
Malthe Mathilde Mohammed Mustafa Noah Nongnam Os-
car Rabee Ranja Rasmus Roua Sikkersog Silje Tobias Vega
William

Vorbasse

Ahmad Amar Anna Aya Celeste Dyar Ella Emily Felix
Freya Josefine Julia Mai Majada Michiqa Mohammed Na-
tasja Oliver Sarah Sebastian Signe Sigrid

Belong young at heart artists and supporters

Anna Hansen
Annie Garland
Annika Dirckinck-Holmfeld
Brian Salomonsen
Camilla Uhre Fog
Catherine Walker
Cecilia Soquez
Christian Hansen
Gitte Thomsen
Gry Holst Jensen
Hans Henrik Skieller
Hans Jorgen Balle
Hardy Sørensen
Jacob Galtung-melchior
Jenna Murphy
Jens Knyde
Jill Toft Hansen
John Ullerup-Hansen

Jon Johannes Hededal
Kim Bisgaard
Kristina Høier Kristiansen
Lea Voss Lyhne
Lenette Ørnholt
Lisbet Thorøe Larsen
Lissy Poulson
Marianne Frejmann
Mette Strømgaard Dalby
Michael Petersen
Nanne Siff Rasmussen
Pernille Holmskov
Pia Abelsen
Poul Poder
Rasmus Ott
Sidsel Overgaard
Sorina Donos
Stinne Hovedskou
Theresa Lundberg

Belong partner organisations and venues

Billund Centret
Billund Idrætscenter
Billund Skole
Den Dynamiske Landsby
Film i Skoven
International School of Billund
Jelling Friskole
Munkevængets Skole, Kolding
Nicolai for børn
Røde Kors Asylcenter, Jelling
Remida Jelling
Sdr. Vang Skole, Kolding
Skatkammeret Kolding
Vorbasse Fritidscenter

Belong collaborators

Agata Celi-Ratyńska, Film-maker
Ambra Molinari, Intern, facilitation and photography
Chresten Heesgård Ibsen, ChIB Pressebureau
Fantasimaskinen, creators of the Belong song
Jeremy Watts, Silly speak facilitation
Kara Lochridge, Billund facilitation
Mike Sullivan, Music facilitation
Raimonda Kulikauskiene, Lotus Photography
Roseanne Kimber, Social Media
Ulla Pedersen and Kolding Integrationskor

CULTURE **SHIFT**

**Culture Shift is a
collaboration between**

Amanda John,
Lucy Read
and
Rachel Faulkner

**We make playful, collaborative
arts and cultural experiences**

Find out more, follow our
projects or get in touch here

www.cultureshift.dk
[www.facebook.com/
cultureshiftdenmark](https://www.facebook.com/cultureshiftdenmark/)
[@cultureshiftdk](https://www.instagram.com/cultureshiftdk)

Registered office, Billund, Denmark.



photo by Lotus Photography

**'Belonging is also belonging to your own space;
being safe and self-secure in what you do'**

- Belong Young Artist