

## Särvux, special adult education for persons with mental challenge in Söderhamn



Learning for understanding, maturity and quality of ones life

# The same – but unique

Särvox, the adult education for persons with mental challenge in Söderhamn is the same as other ones – and still we are quite unique!

Just as in other municipalities our education in Söderhamn serves people between the ages 20 and 65 with mental challenges, acquired brain injuries or autism. In the same way as in other municipalities we turn to people who lack, need to improve or supplement their education. As in other municipalities our courses provide proficiencies equivalent to the compulsory special school (school for children with mental challenge) and the national and specially designed programmes of the upper secondary special school.

But there are also quite a few things which make us unique – or at least special.

Our premises are located in the middle of the municipality's learning centre: CFL, Centre for Flexible Learning. CFL is Söderhamn's arena for adult learning. CFL offers education on all levels, from basic adult education to university education. Research, seminars and a whole lot more can also be found at CFL.

– The fact that we are situated at the heart of the building is good evidence of everyone's equal value at CFL, irrespective of background and type of school, explains Ingalill Stefansson, who is in charge of the adult education for persons with mental challenge in Söderhamn.

We pursue a very self-assured pedagogy, where results are followed up within the frame of our own research project "Den retsamma skolbänken" (The tantalizing school desk).

The method of working is based on a humanist scientific model for understanding with influences from known educationalists such as Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Fröbel and Köhler.

– We use a *following pedagogy*, where each student plans and runs his or her education, says Ingalill. Pedagogues provide support and service based on the students' wishes. By finding a *structure of one's own*, in school as in life in general, our students can assimilate the knowledge.

Our work is boundless regarding knowledge. In order to be able to interpret, understand and serve – all according to our students' wishes – a deeper knowledge within a wide scope is required. Over the years our work has come to expand from concerning pedagogy and psychology to also containing social care science, ethics and philosophy.

The fact that our commitment is complete and that we –staff and students alike – dare recognize our inherent abilities is certainly also of great importance to our success. How will you reach the stars if you neither want to nor believe that you can?



Janne Nilsson, instructor at särvox in Söderhamn:

## Together we go to a place we didn't know we could reach!

– By meeting students where they want to be met we help them with *life understanding*, *life maturity*, and most importantly, *life quality*. One of our most important tasks is to help the students *put their history into words*. This can be done in many different ways. For example they can tell us about their experiences. By listening and writing down what the student tell us we confirm his or her feelings and experiences. Through continuous discussions about their experiences we help the students in developing their self-knowledge.

# What do you study at särvux?



*Eva Ringefors has spent many years at särvux. Her great passion is writing.*



*Medical terminology is Karl-Erik Falk's great interest. Here he is seen writing.*



*- I love särvux, says Mikael Burman. He also harbours warm feelings for his feather duster. It has all the colours of the rainbow and it is nice and soft.*

## Everyday life at särvux in Söderhamn is studied in the research project “The Tantalizing School Desk”

Ingalill Stefansson is not only responsible for särvux in Söderhamn. She also carries out research on the activities and she is a doctoral candidate at Karlstad University. She runs the research project *The Tantalizing School Desk*, where she tries to develop and deepen the knowledge in *how* and *what* people want to learn by analyzing and reflecting on the practice.

The project cooperates with Research and Development (R&D) Söderhamn, located at CFL, and Karlstad University.

So far *Etiska torg i daglig verksamhet* (*Ethical squares in daily activities*), *Med den andres liv i min hand* (*Someone else's life in my hand*) and *Läsforskning – till nytta för praktiker?* (*Reading research – useful for practitioners?*) have been published in CFL's series of reports.

To order, contact Ingalill Stefansson.



## We are happy to share our experiences!

Through teacher's seminars, lectures and supervision we share our experiences from meeting students. The theme is how development takes place in the constantly ongoing learning processes. Our activities turned outward usually appeal to staff at special schools, compulsory schools and special care units, such as housing, special day care and psychiatry.

*Are you interested in engaging us? Contact Ingalill Stefansson.*

By commission of the upper secondary school we also carry out individual courses of study within the upper secondary special school individual programme. The individual course of study is specific for each individual student and developed in close cooperation with the school headmaster, the student and his or her parents. The realization of the programme is to a large extent integrated in the regular special education.

# CFL - The vision of growth



CFL offers flexible learning for individuals, industry and organisations.

CFL is also a place to meet and to study open to everybody.

We view lifelong learning as the key to both personal development and growth within our society.

We believe in the human ability and our will to develop.

We believe in cooperation, both locally and globally.

You are very welcome her.

Together we make the vision of growth come true.

***Please contact us!***



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Information on sÄr vux as a type of school can also be found at [www.skolverket.se](http://www.skolverket.se)

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