

Child Impact Assessments in Sweden

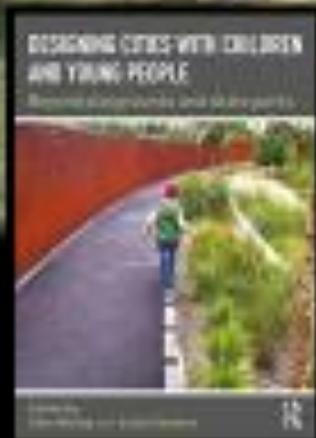
Maria Nordström



- CIA:s have been developed to be an instrument to **realize the CRC in urban planning in Sweden**;
- it is important to know **the context** in which they are used as well as carefully observe how they are used and applied.
- CIA:s as **an instrument to create child friendly environments**, not an end in themselves;
- CIA:s considered to be a **useful planning instrument**: much effort has been put into doing CIA:s;
- However, **limited application** to physical reality: while it has been politically "desirable" to do CIA:s, there is **no regulation** saying that they must be applied.

- Swedish ***tradition of child friendly urban planning*** is not really new;
- late 19th century: teachers and people in the sports' movement, advocate for ***special outdoor places*** be reserved for children;
- Stockholm's ***first public park*** (the *Vasaparken*) with large playgrounds implemented at turn of the century.

- 1950s: creation of a new traffic system that secured ***safe roads and places*** for children in housing areas as well as in cities on the whole;
- Late 1950s and early 1960s: creation of ***child-friendly urban and traffic environments*** as part of extensive government house-building programme;
- **Example:** children's outdoor environments in the small municipality of Staffanstorp in southern Sweden, planned and built during the 1970s;
- Studies show that 78 % of the 10 year old children in Staffanstorp walk or bike to school daily.



Mårtensson and Nordström (2017) Nordic child friendly urban planning reconsidered in Bishop and Corkery, *Designing cities with children and young people*.

- 1986: new *liberal regulation* leaves it to the market and the individual municipalities to decide planning priorities;
- late 1990s: *building boom* meant that ground became economically very precious;
- **Example:** Haga district in the centre of Stockholm, built last year

- ***“economic” argument*** was decisive - that the ground was too expensive not to be built on;
- the needs of children were mentioned in planning documents but they were ***never realized in planning practice***;
- ***landscape architects*** have been the most vocal group to point out the disastrous consequences for children of the present planning practice.





- Parents, teachers and pressure groups have started to demand a change in today's planning practices;
- Present government seems to be considering legislation; **CIA:s** might be assigned a more important role in the future.

What does the term *Child Impact Assessment* mean?

- The term means that the consequences for children of a proposed change to the physical environment is analyzed in a document, where the anticipated positive and negative aspects of the proposed changes to children are spelled out, in words as well as on maps.

Step 1:

to describe the present environment, how it is used by children and which its child-friendly qualities to children are;

Step 2:

to scrutinize the proposed physical changes;

Step 3:

to propose improvements and changes to the proposed plan in support of children's needs.

A successful CIA – in 4 steps:

Aspuddens "extra" school-ground in southern Stockholm





ASPUDDENS SKOLA



-  Befintliga byggnader
-  Grön-område
-  Planerade byggnader

