

Areas of expertise

For the past 20 years, I have worked in hospital settings, in pediatric rehabilitation facilities, in a psychiatric clinic, as well as done applied research and test development. Specifically, I have culturally adapted and collected norms on validated assessment tools, therefore I am knowledgeable on available tests and questionnaires in English and Danish including cultural differences in an assessment situation.

During my PhD (2013-2017), I adapted and normed (N=10.300) a newly released resource-focused socio-emotional questionnaire. Currently as an independent consultant, I offer pediatric neuropsychological evaluations to insurance providers, educational institutions, and private clients (children and adults).

Furthermore, I advise research organizations and publishers on how to choose the “right” assessment tools and how to implement interventions. I conduct further education courses for psychologists on their way to board certification.

Education

2025 Certified in Therapeutic Assessment by the Therapeutic Assessment Institute, Texas, USA.

2022 Board Certified Pediatric Psychologist by the Danish Psychological Association

2020 Board Certified Supervisor by the Danish Psychological Association

2017 PhD. Title: *Measuring Socio-Emotional and Pre-math Skills in Early Childhood*
TrygFonden’s Centre for Child Research Center, Institute of Economics and Arts, Aarhus University

2013 Board Certified Pediatric Neuropsychologist by the Danish Psychological Association

2005 Authorization as Licensed Psychologist by the Danish Supervisory Board of Psychological Practice,
Ministry of Social affairs

2002 MSc in Psychology, University of Copenhagen

Professional experience

2017- cont.

Expert Consultant on early childhood interventions and assessment of outcome

Independent Consultancy

Consultant on implementation of large-scale interventions, assessment tools, and effects of interventions within the cognitive domain, executive function, the socio-emotional domain, and

academic skills. In addition, I have a private clinical practice where I conduct neuropsychological assessments

Clients: Ministry of Social Affairs, Copenhagen University College, Rockwool Foundation Research Unit, The Danish National Centre for Social Research (former: SFI and KORA), Pearson Publishing, Hogrefe Publishing, Rambøll Management Consultancy, Copenhagen Municipality, Private Child Psychiatric Clinic

2013-2017

Industrial PhD as a collaboration between TrygFonden's Centre for Child Research, Aarhus University and Welfare department, Rambøll Management Consulting

Aarhus Universitet/ Rambøll Management Consulting

PhD student in large-scale intervention study on 17,000 children. Special focus for PhD: Development of outcome measures within socio-emotional skills and pre-math. In addition, senior consultant on assignments for Rambøll Management Consulting

2005-2013

Head of Department/Head of Research Project/Clinical Child Psychologist

Copenhagen University: Center for Rehabilitation of Brain Injury – a non-profit specialized hospital

Founder of department for children with acquired brain injury delivering interdisciplinary examinations and interventions to all regions of Denmark. Research project on cognitive training of children. Teaching several courses at university level and further education for psychologists. Cultural adaptation of questionnaires and tests to Danish based on English validated tools

2012-2018

External Expert Consultant

Rockwool Foundation Research Unit

External advisor for research team on choice of relevant questionnaires for measuring effect of social-emotional learning program for elementary school children resulting in four reports

2010-2017

External University Examiner

Danish Agency for Higher Education

Examiner at Bachelor and Master programs at Departments of Psychology at universities in Denmark

2002-2005

Child Psychologist in project developing interventions and assessments

Egmont Foundation/ The Capital Region of Denmark

Development of methods for evidence-based interventions for children with acquired brain injury

Selected teaching assignments (further education at specialist level)

2021- ongoing (1–2-day courses):

- *Advanced Teaching of Assessment of children*
- *How to perform clinically relevant neuropsychological assessment in the psychiatric setting and how to evaluate its effect*
- *How to choose the “right” evidence-based intervention*

Selected peer-reviewed academic publications

Jacobsen, C. B., Koustrup, C., & **Sjö, N. M.** (2024). Attentive to learning? Supporting social workers' monitoring of learning skills in children placed in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*

Jacobsen, C. B., Koustrup, C., & **Sjö, N. M.** (2023). Observant on Learning? Finding a Screening Tool to Support Social Workers' Monitoring of Learning. *Nordic Social Work Research*, 1–14.

Sjö, N. M., Kragh, C. L., & Jacobsen, C. B. (2023). Når plejeforældre er isbrydere for børnenes lyst til læring. *Pædagogisk Psykologisk Tidsskrift*, 60(1), 88–98.

Baviskar, S., Bergström, M., Danneskiold-Samsøe, S., **Sjö, N. M.**, Sørensen, K. M., & Jacobsen, C. B. (2023). Developing an Intervention to Enhance Parental Monitoring in Family Foster Care. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 33(6), 666–678.

Jensen, P., & **Sjö, N. M.** (2022). The effects of a large-scale school readiness intervention on Danish preschool children's emergent mathematics skills. *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, 1–16.

Sjö, N. M., Kiil, A., & Jensen, P. (2021). Teachers' Perspectives on Strength-Based and Deficit-Based Instruments for Assessing Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood. *Infants & Young Children*, 34(1), 33–45

Sørensen, K. M., & **Sjö, N. M.** (2021). Feasible interventions for children in foster care according to service users and practitioners. *Child & Family Social Work*, 26(3), 379–393.

Sjö, N. M., Kiil, A., Bleses, D., Dybdal, L., Kreiner, S., & Jensen, P. (2020). Assessing strengths and difficulties in social development: A comparison of the Social Emotional Assessment Measure (SEAM) with two established developmental psychopathological questionnaires. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 17(1), 103–122.

Marks, K. P., **Madsen Sjö, N.**, & Wilson, P. (2018). Comparative use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires in the USA and Scandinavia: a systematic review. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dmcn.14044>

Sjö, N. M., Bleses, D., Dybdal, L., Tideman, E., Kirkeby, H., Sehested, K. K., ... Jensen, P. (2018). Short Danish Version of the Tools for Early Assessment in Math (TEAM) for 3–6-Year-Olds. *Early Education and Development*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2018.1544810>

Sjö, N. M., Kiil, A., Bleses, D., Dybdal, L., Kreiner, S., & Jensen, P. (2018). Assessing strengths and difficulties in social development: a comparison of the Social Emotional Assessment Measure (SEAM) with two established developmental psychopathological questionnaires. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17405629.2018.1540975>

Sjoe et al. (2017). Measurement Properties of the SEAM Questionnaire Using Rasch Analysis on Data From a Representative Danish Sample of 0-to 6-Year-Olds. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 0734282917746250.

Kiil, Pontoppidan & **Sjoe (2017).** Måling af børns trivsel i interventionsstudier. *Pædagogisk Psykologisk Tidsskrift*, 3, 54–65.

Arranging and (co-)hosting conferences

- Professor Steven Finn (USA): *Hard-To-Reach Clients: Building Alliance and Facilitating Change* (2025)
- Professor Steven Finn (USA): *Using the Early Memory Procedure in Psychological Assessment and Psychotherapy* (2025)
- Professor Deborah Tharinger (USA): *One-year Course in Short-term Intervention with Children, Adolescence and Families based on the method of Therapeutic Assessment* (2020-2022)
- Dr. Penelope Bunton (England), Dr. Eva Tidemann (Sweden), among other professionals: *Theories on supervision of professionals* (2019)
- Professor Judith Mesman, Holland: *Parenting in relation to children's social-emotional development and resilience in early childhood* (2016, 2017, 2019)
- Professor Jane Squires, USA: *Social Emotional Assessment and Intervention in children age 0-6* (2014)
- Professor Douglas Clements and Julie Sarama, USA: *Early Math – assessment and intervention* (2014)
- Dr. Penelope Bunton, England: *Middle Eastern Culture: Impact on Clinical practice in Western Europe* (2012)
- Professor Ida Sue Baron, U.S.A.: *Normal versus abnormal neurocognitive development in children* (2008)
- PhD. Michael Kirkwood, U.S.A.: *Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A Scientific Review of Post-Acute Clinical Care* (2007)
- PhD. Michael Kirkwood & Jennifer Janutz, U.S.A.: *Understanding the WISC and BRIEF within the Neurodevelopmental Systems Model* (2007)
- Professor Maureen Dennis, Canada: *Recent advances in brain and cognitive development relevant to clinical practice* (2005)

Contribution to cultural adaptation to Danish and/or norm collection

- *WISC-6* (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 6th edition)
- *WAIS-5* (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 5th edition)
- *D-KEFS Advanced* (Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System)
- *BASC-III* (Behaviour Assessment System for Children)
- *SSAP* (*Story Stem Assessment Profile*)
- *SEAM with Ages/ SEAM Family profile* (Social Emotional Assessment/Evaluation Measure)
- *TEAM* (Tools of Early Mathematics)
- *BASC-II* (Behaviour Assessment System for Children II and III)
- *CFFS* (Child and Family Follow-up Survey)
- *SRS* (Social Responsiveness Scale)
- *CSOT* (Child Size Ordering Test)

Expert panel participation (latest)

External expert consultant on choosing assessment tools when assessing vulnerable populations for the **Ministry of Social Affairs**, Denmark (2024-2025).

Member of task force group for **Brain Injury Organization** on Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (2018-)

Member of task force group for **Danish Psychological Association**: Rehabilitation of children and adults with acquired brain injury (2016-2017)

Member of expert council for **Copenhagen Municipality**: Increased focus on pre-math skills in child cares and math skills in schools (2015-2016)

Interviews to radio programs and production of educational movies

Educational movie: *New method for academic intervention – how to support children* (2022)

Educational movie: *How to administer a pre-math test* (2014)

Educational movie: *A new method for physical training of children with acquired brain injury* (2011)

Interview for book chapter: *Kan jeg dø af det, mor* by Karin Mørch (2011)

Radio (National program: P1): *Rehabilitation of children with acquired brain injury* (2011)

Educational movie: *Attention and memory training of children with cognitive deficits* (2010)

Radio (National program: P1): *Methods on how to rehabilitate children with acquired brain injury* (2009, 2007)