How does KiVa work?

The core of the KiVa program is to prevent bullying from happening. However, effective tools for tackling bullying cases are also needed when the bullying cases come to the attention of the school personnel. Also, annual monitoring in the schools is also needed. Thus, KiVa works on three important fronts: prevention, intervention and monitoring. To implement all this in practice, KiVa offers a set of practical online and offline tools. Those cover universal actions, like student lessons and games focusing on prevention, indicated actions to be used when the case of bullying happens, as well as online tools for monitoring.

KiVa’s international success

KiVa was first applied in Finland and the evaluation showed outstanding results: the programme helps reducing peer-to-peer violence, makes schools safer places for students, positively impacting school liking and academic motivation. Currently 20 countries around the world apply this model. KiVa received numerous awards and is mentioned in the INSPIRE Handbook as a good practice to end violence against children.

What makes KiVa program special?

“Because bullying is a group phenomenon, we need to make all students aware they have a role and responsibility in the situation of bullying. KiVa works to change the prevailing group norms, so that bullying is not tolerated or accepted. We teach children safe strategies how to defend a victim and to behave in bullying situations.”

Johanna Alanen, KiVa Project Manager