



## REDUCTION OF SUICIDES AND TRESPASSES ON RAILWAY PROPERTY



### EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR 8–11 YEAR OLD CHILDREN



**WHERE:** *In four schools located near railway lines in the city of Tampere in Finland.*

**WHY:** The measure is intended to increase the knowledge of children about the safe behaviour in the railway environment and thus to reduce the vandalism, risky situations and possible accidents resulting from railway trespassing.

**WHAT:** Education in schools included a 45-minute lesson on safety behaviour in a railway environment directed at 8–11 year old children. The effect of the school education campaign was evaluated based on a short survey directed at pupils before the lesson (base level) and around 2–3 months later (post-lesson). The survey measure three variables: level of knowledge related to railway trespassing, reported crossing behaviour, and pupils' assessment of safety related to crossing railway lines. The questions were linked to three locations

**RESULTS:** The railway safety education in schools has a positive effect for all measured variables. Based on this we can reasonably assume that railway safety education in schools will also have a positive effect on the frequency of trespassing in that area. The size of the effect depends on the children's base level understanding of the dangers related to railway lines; in schools located near railway lines it is expected to be better than in schools located further away.



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