



Building a culture for attendance

With Marit Fagerheim Wiik

Who am I

- Marit Fagerheim Wiik
- Oslo, Norway
- Husband, two kids age 12 and 16 and a dog
- Love spiritual practice and sauna



Two legs and a heart in attendance work

- Project manager at Cymra
- Teacher in lower secondary school in Oslo
- Daughter who does not like school





Who are you?

Reflection:

Fragmentation creates
anxiety

—

Connection creates
meaning and trust

Godi Keller





What is a culture?

- I claim that a culture is the practices, structures and routines of a school/family/society – it's what we do, not what we say.
- Do you agree?

What is needed to prevent SAP?

- Structures and routines that promote connection
 - Connecting students with each other
 - Connecting students and teachers
 - Connecting home and school
 - Connecting the subjects
- Didactics that connect the subjects with the life of the student
 - It has to be relevant

Nærværsskolen



- A holistic concept developed by Silje Hrafa Tjersland
- A school culture where attendance is the nr. 1 priority
- Complete system to promote attendance vigorously
- It works!





Four key elements

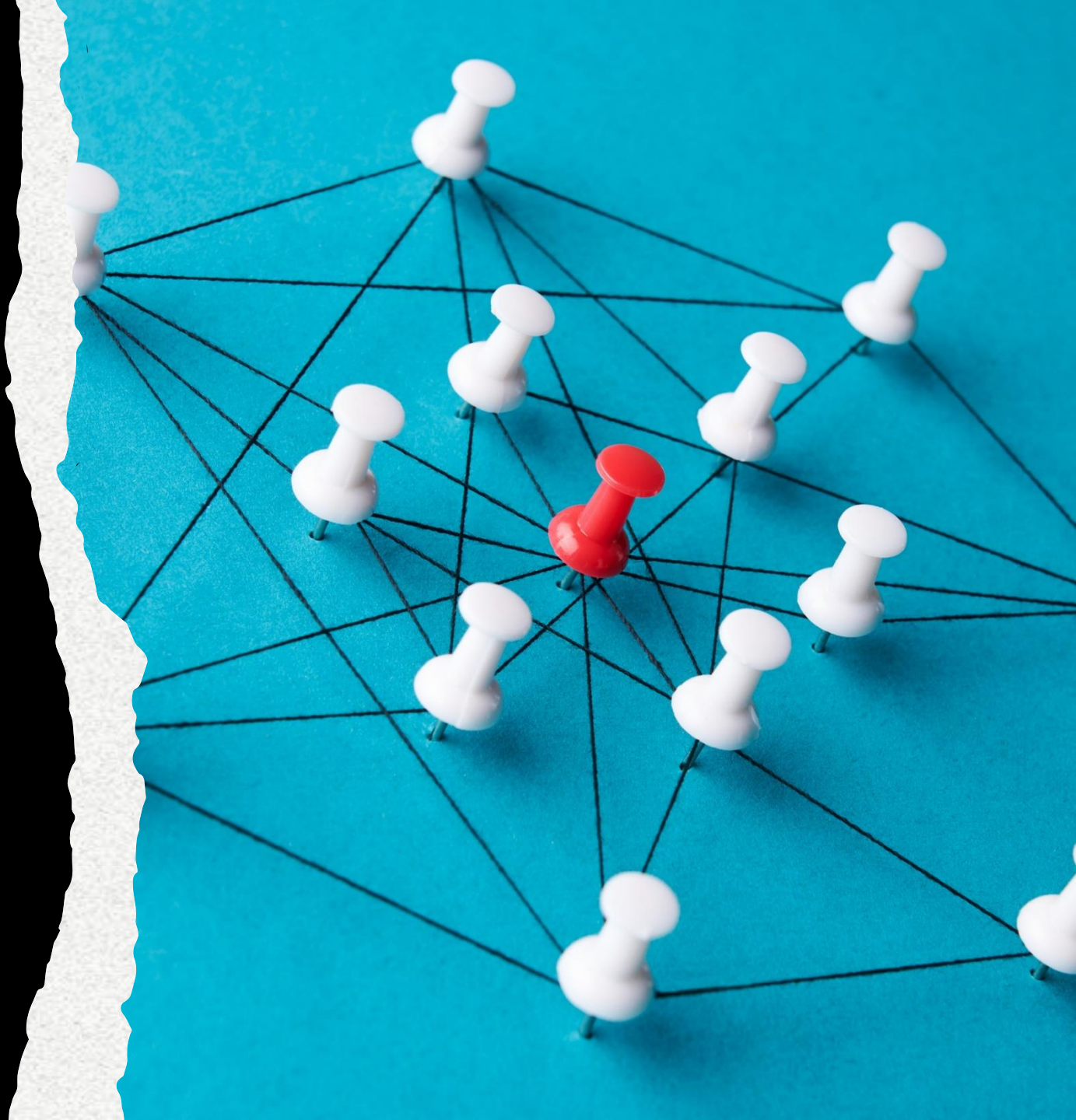
- Knowledge
- Prevention
- Overview
- Early detection and intervention

Reflection

How do you, in your country,
create systems for attendance
that work?

What do they consist of?

What are the keys to succeed?



Break



Tools for attendance

- **Relational connection:**

- Elevsamtaleten – a short, frequent conversation the teacher has with their students
- Sosial groups – 4-5 students spend time together during school hours – organised by the school nurse
- Social educators team – young, «cool» social workers who are around for the students and organise extra curricular activities
- Trips with whole class – 1-2 days with teachers
- Close school-home-collaboration – teacher calls home before the school year starts
- Social emotional learning

Tools for attendance

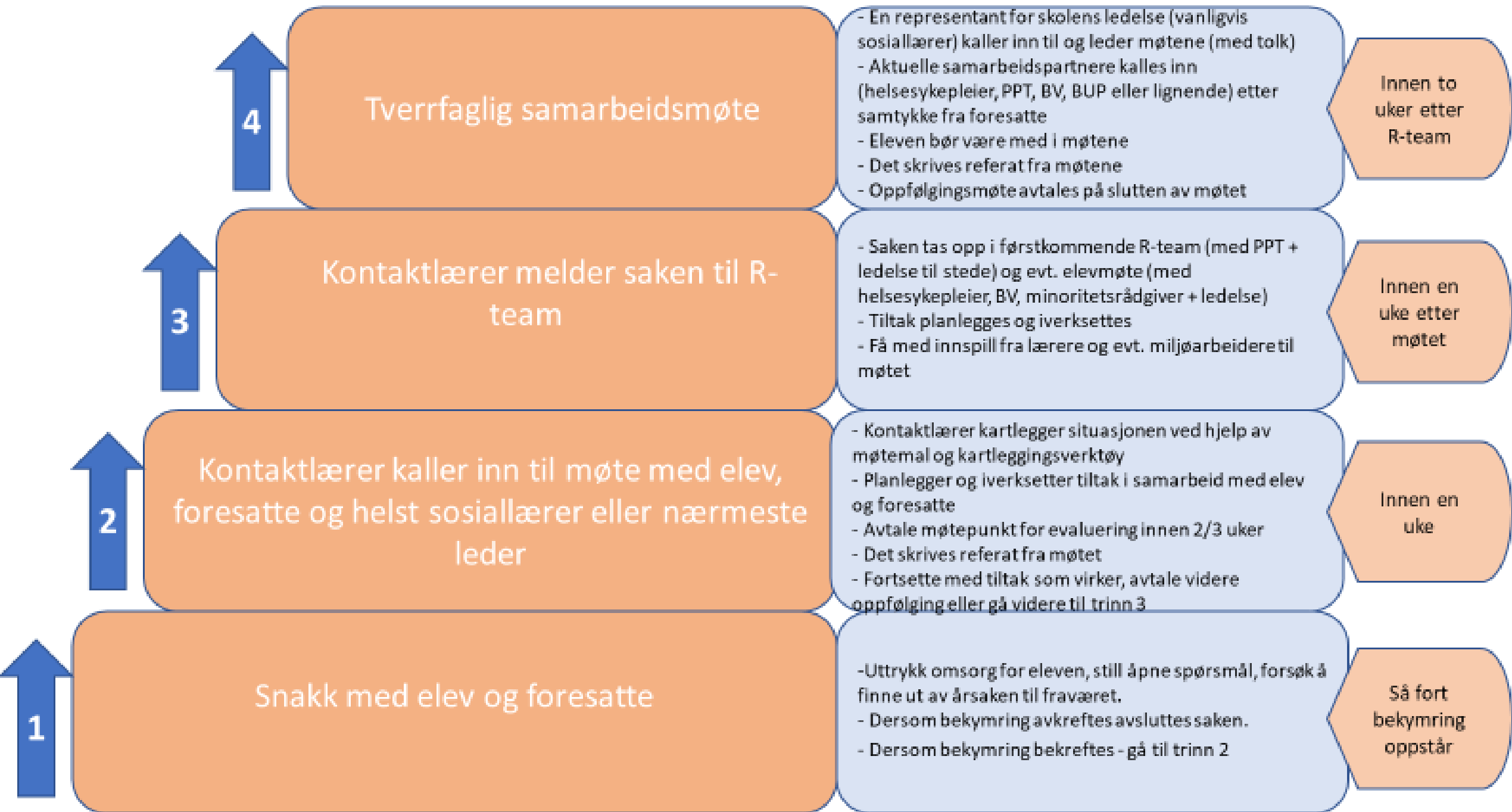
- **Curricular connection:**

- Dialogic teaching
- Standard for «the good class» that all teachers follow
- Active learning – variation in activities
- Project work (well organised)
- Extra courses for students who struggle
- Current developmental focus: student participation in planning and assessing

Tools for attendance

- **Structural tools:**

- Two teachers share responsibility for class of 30 students
- Fewer classes each day – less stress
- Fagdag/ «Theme day» - every second Wednesday
- Knowledge about attendance benefits – teachers, students and parents
- High attendance expectations – absence is recorded and followed up systematically:
 - ✓ Monthly review in staff meeting
 - ✓ Staircase for attendance





Tools for attendance - exercice

- What tools do you know of/have?
- Write them down on a post-it and stick it to the relevant poster

Round up and reflecting ahead

- What do you take home from this workshop?
- What will be your practical focus going forward?