Childern and young people who need special support can have lack of social skills which brings challenges to everyday life. Different leisure activities allow supported practising of social skills. One important method is peer groups. Self-esteem of children and young people can be build up by success in leisure activities and this also supports development of social skills.

The employer of this study was Ryhmästä Ryhtää Arkeen-project (2006-2008). Partial goal of this project was to reinforce the social skills of children and young people who need special support. In this study the main target was to explore the meaning of leisure activities for children and young people who need special support and for their everyday life social skills. Theoretical basis was characteristics and content of everyday social skills of children and young: ability to empathy, accountability, initiative, ability to cooperate and self control. Research method was qualitative and material for this study was collected by individual interviews with themes during fall 2008. Two young and their parents who were part of RRA-project were interviewed. Transcribed material was processed with themes and reportage proceeds as a dialogue between material and theory.

The people interviewed for this study felt that leisure activities of children and young who need special support are meaningful at reinforcing the social skills in everyday life. Ability to empathy, accountability and initiative were learned through activities. Working in a group had increased self control and ability to cooperate. As its best leisure activities are reasonable and strengthen the social skills in everyday life of children and young. This makes it easier to get along in the society and increases welfare.

Keywords
need of special support child and young person, leisure activities, social skills