This paper describes and problematises the experience of growing up in rural districts. The aim is partly to draw attention to the growing need for research in this area, partly to discuss some preliminary results and methodological issues of an ongoing study. The overriding aim of the research project is to describe the context and daily life of a group of rural children. The study focuses on how environmental, social, pedagogical and technological changes form and transform, support and restrict children and families in sparsely populated areas. We ask how their everyday learning and life style are affected over time. Specifically, the study investigates the children’s knowledge development and identity-creation, inclusion and participation as well as their future prospects, which is why the study includes relationships and constructions created and used by children. A group of pre and primary school children and families are studied for a long period of time from the child’s perspective and with an ethnographic approach.

*Carin Roos is the presenter of the paper at the conference.