

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a light pink t-shirt, holding a young child with brown hair and blue eyes. The child is wearing a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt. The woman is looking towards the camera with a gentle expression, and the child is looking slightly to the side. The background is softly blurred, showing a bright window or light source.

Kind en Gezin

Child and Family

We care about young children

Kind & Gezin

1. About Kind en Gezin

1.1 Kind en Gezin

1.2 Policy areas

1.3 Mission

1.4 Values



1.1 Kind en Gezin (Child and Family)

- Agency of the Flemish community
- Resorting under the Flemish department of Welfare-
Minister of Welfare, Family and Health
- Operating in the Flemish and Brussels Region

1.2 Policy areas

Kind en Gezin is responsible for:

- Preventive family support
- Child care
- Adoption



1.3 Mission

Kind en Gezin, together with its partners, aims to create as many opportunities as possible for every child, regardless of where he or she was born or where and how he or she is growing up.

1.4 Values

- At Kind en Gezin, we attach a great deal of importance to the

values:

- ✓ Diversity
- ✓ Children's rights

- Kind en Gezin employees are working on 4 values:

- ✓ Open
- ✓ Positive
- ✓ Passionate
- ✓ Expert



2. Preventive family support

- 2.1 Teamwork
- 2.2 Target group
- 2.3 Core themes
- 2.4 How do we do this?
- 2.5 Integration of our family support
- 2.6 Partners
- 2.7 Children's Centres



2.1 Teamwork

- District centres :
 - ✓ District team members: district nurses, family support workers and a district team manager
 - ✓ Supported by provincial parenting support consultant, provincial target groups consultant, infant participation staff and lactation specialist
- 342 infant welfare clinics:
 - ✓ Volunteers
 - ✓ District team members
 - ✓ Clinic doctor
- Cooperation with external players

2.2 Target group

- All expectant parents
 - ✓ With extra attention for vulnerable pregnant women
- All families with children aged 0-3
 - ✓ With extra attention for vulnerable families

We reach

97% of all families for the first home visit

90% of all families for the algo hearing test

83% of all families for the first consultation

2.3 Core themes

- Dominant themes in our services from pregnancy to 3 years

- ✓ Healthy eating

- ✓ Daily care and hygiene

- ✓ Good health and full set of vaccinations

- ✓ Safe living and sleeping environment

- ✓ Optimal development

- ✓ Positive parenting

2.4 How do we do this?

Antenatal services

- ‘Baby on the way’ info sessions in conjunction with maternity hospitals
- Antenatal support for vulnerable pregnant women:
 - ✓ Antenatal clinic
 - ✓ Home visits

2.5 How do we do this?

Postnatal services

- Introductory visit:
 - ✓ In maternity hospital or at home (e.g. after home birth)
- Home visits
- Hearing test
- Consultation at infant welfare clinic
 - ✓ Vaccinations
 - ✓ Monitoring of development
 - ✓ Parenting support
 - ✓ Eye test at 12 and 24 months
 - ✓ ...

2.6 Integration of our family support

- Strength of Child and Family is our all-round services
we do home visits in 97% of all families
very high coverage for our consultations,
we reach also the vulnerable families
- We developed also initiatives who are more focused on families in poverty (walk-in teams)
- Development of parenting support in Flanders: a lot of different initiatives and partners

2.7 Children's Centres



- **A home for parents and children:**

- ✓ A qualitative partnership between different local organisations
- ✓ More integration of various services for parents and children
- ✓ Consultations: medical and pedagogical

The one-stop shop for **parents for local information and support**, creates a mix of diversity of services based on the concrete needs of the families

3. Child care

3.1 Duties

3.2 Functions of child care

3.3 Future: Decree on Child Care for
Babies and Preschool Children



3.1 Duties

Kind en Gezin is responsible for implementing the policy of the Flemish Minister of Welfare, Public Health and Family.

- ✓ Promotes and supports child care and monitors its quality.
- ✓ Does not organise child care itself and so does not employ staff at facilities or child minders.
- ✓ Grants a supervision certificate or accreditation to child care facilities
- ✓ Pays grants to child care facilities
- ✓ Divides the budget made available by the Government of Flanders to extend the child care provision

3.2 Functions of child care

- **Economic function**
- **Social function**
- **Pedagogical function**

3.2 Functions of child care

- **Pedagogical function**
- ✓ Good child care not only offers young children care and security, it also stimulates their physical and psychological development.
- ✓ Children meet others there and learn to treat each other with respect.

3.4 Future: Decree on Child Care for Babies and Preschool Children

- Sufficient, high-quality child care
- Accessible to all
- Affordable for parents
- Financially feasible for child care sector

4. Context of families in Flanders

- Children of non Belgian origin : 22%
- Children with language other than Dutch: 23,8%
- Children born in underprivileged families: 9,7 %

Criteria permanent registration

- income
- level of education of the parents
- development of the children
- conditions of employment
- housing
- health

deprivation = a long-term condition where people are restricted in their opportunities to participate sufficiently in high-valued social goods, such as education, employment and housing

5. Strategies social inclusion Outreachment

- 5.1 Framework and vision
- 5.2 Main goals
- 5.3 Strategies
- 5.4 Family supporters
- 5.5 Diversity in
communication
- 5.6 Social inclusion childcare



5.1 Framework and vision

- Inclusive approach
- Special services for underprivileged families within the mainstream provision (progressive universalism)
- Accessibility, effectiveness, participation

5.1 Framework and vision – important principles

- To recognize the external part of poverty (education, health, houses, work...) and the internal part of poverty (self-estimation, lack of self-confidence)
- To recognize “the gaps”

Structural gap: no structural participation in society
(education, health..)

Gap of competences

Gap of knowledge

Gap of feelings

Gap of power

5.2 Focus strategies social inclusion

- Family Supporters : experts by experience
- Diversity in communication
- Social inclusion childcare
- Children's centres

5.3 The family supporter

Goal- the family project

The core function of the family supporter is

‘to connect’ with socially vulnerable families to give their children as many opportunities and to support the parents for the realisation of their family project

In order to bridge the gap of social exclusion.

5.3 The family supporter

- Since 1993
- 70 family supporters
- Working together in team with social nurses and doctors
- Supported by a consultant target groups and a consultant-expert by experience

5.3 The family supporter

Core function 'to connect'

The Family supporter connects on three dimensions in the service and the organisation

A. Each social vulnerable family (family project)

B. In the interaction between each socially vulnerable family and their service provider(s)

C. The organisation and the socially vulnerable people

5.4 Diversity in communication

-Child in pictures

-Films

-Translations

-Attention to diversity in all communications

'Child in pictures'



Kind in Beeld

Vaste voeding

Kind & Gezin

Child in pictures

- Pictographic information about the main themes of Child and Family: nutrition, safety, child care, pregnancy, development,...
- for parents who don't have access to written information (parents who don't speak Dutch, who can't read,...)
- clarifies topics by means of pictures, drawings and simple diagrams
- provided to the family and is actively used as an instrument to support communication during the guidance of the family

Leren eten

Hier vind je enkele tips om je kind te leren eten, hoe je eten geeft, ...

Vanaf 4 maanden



fijnmalen



lepel horizontaal in de mond



niet verticaal



niet afschrappen



proeven



lepel niet aan kind geven



kind heeft eigen lepel

Vanaf 6 maanden



open beker met water



melk in de fles



geen tuitbeker



geen zoete drank in fles



geen fles in bed

Vanaf 8 maanden



pletten



geen fles in buggy

Vanaf 12 maanden



kleine stukjes



zelf eten met lepel



geen fles tussen de maaltijden

Films

Film 'Look, I'm growing!
Baby's and parents growing together'

Translated in 9 languages

Development from birth to 3 years:
motor development, language development, cognitive
and sensory development, emotional development and
learning to deal with others

Focus on encouraging development by parents and
other educators (grandparents, childcare)

Translations

Attention to diversity in all communications

Translation of core messages in 7 different languages
Based on registration: most spoken languages between parents and professional

Attention to diversity in all communications

- In brochures, website,...
- Pictures and drawings of different ethnicities, family compositions,...

5.5 Development of Children's Centres

More integration of all different services :

- = Based on our infant welfare clinics : medical en pedagogical consultation
- = walk in teams : group meeting
- = parenting advise : concrete pedagogical advise
- = Locations of parental meeting

Form of basic services as a qualitative partnership between different local organisations?

Creates a mix of diversity of services = based on the concrete needs of the families

= Evolution in whole Europe (Family centres)

5.6 Social inclusion Childcare

- Research 2007:
 - *10% of parents didn't find a childcare place
 - *single parents, ethnic minorities, families in poverty are overrepresented in this groupMost subsidies go to more affluent parents
- Structural measure in new legislation 2009 :
20% of the capacity subsidised ECEC for single parents, families in poverty or crisis

5.6 Social inclusion Childcare

Future: Decree on Child care

Accessibility and affordability for families

- Equal access to high quality child care
- Inform every family about currently available child care
- Affordable childcare, based on income and family circumstances
- Respect for diversity, so that all children and their parents are actively involved in their child care.

Challenges

- Extended preventive ante-natal services for pregnant women with focus on vulnerable women within the Children's centres
- Focus on quality and respect for diversity in Childcare
- Importance of a structural policy and no short-term projects, no isolated projects, but more integration : concept of "Huizen van het kind" (Family centres)

Challenges

- Working on the structural aspects of families in poverty: social security, activation, living conditions.. – “Welfare can’t solve poverty on his own”
- We need to invest more in attitude and competence of everybody who works with families in poverty (teachers, nurses, social workers...)
- Don’t forget to work on the internal focus : who do they think, what do they mean..