

Start project

Kick off Meeting

Bologna 14-16 september



vbjk
Vernieuwing in de
Basisvoorzieningen
voor Jonge Kinderen

Transitions in Belgium (Fl)



- Split system between childcare (0-3 yr) and preschool (2,5-5 yr)
- Research European Commission and Amerycx: potential vulnerable transition for children who have not attended childcare and children living in societal disadvantaged conditions
- Political interest started recently
- Empiric study: unequal transition as concern of many parents and ECEC staff

Transitions in Belgium

“children should start childcare earlier”

“children should be made schoolready beforehand”

“children should learn it the hard way”

“children should be kept at home”

→ Focus is solely on child and parents

→ How can ECEC services take care of children & families with different previous experiences at all times?

→ How can we create a **warm and inclusive transition**?

Parents, childcare and preschool staff work together





K I N D E R D A G V E R B L I J F

mezennestje

Everyone is welcome in our warm nest!

We hope that your child and your family will soon feel at **home**, and we work on a **soft transition**.

We thank you for your **trust**. Our relationship is built on mutual **respect**, **openness** and **honesty**.

Everyone can **be him/herself**, because **diversity** is a strength. You can find a place with us, regardless of your background or capabilities. That is **inclusion!**

With a lot of **warmth**, we offer your child the necessary **development opportunities** to a **solid start** in life.

We **involve** you and your family as much as possible. You can also **meet** other families and children.

It requires a lot of **commitment** to keep our care **accessible** and **flexible**: we do it for you!

Kinderdagverblijf Mezennestje Inclusive Childcare Centre

63 places, age 0 to 3

40 places, age 2,5 to 12
(combined with school)

1/3 places: disadvantaged
families, neighbourhood
2/3 places: advantaged
families (cfr hospital nearby)

Cooperation with “Mensen
voor Mensen”



Vierdewereldgroep Mensen voor Mensen vzw (People for People)



Poverty is an injustice!

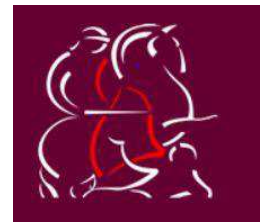
People for People: Self advocacy group

- NOT: give food/clothes/money to poor people
- human rights perspective
- people in poverty take the word
- solidarity: people in poverty and non-poverty together
- dialogue
- dignity and power of people living in poverty central
- policy recommendations (partnerships and politics)
- 20 years experience in education/ working with parents and their children

'People in poverty do not only ask for help, but they want to be recognized, valued and heard in the society and public debates'



Sint Maartenschool



- Our school is located in Aalst, we are a Catholic school.
- Our pre-school has around 125 children, our primary school around 200
- 6 pre-school teachers assisted by 3 duo-teachers and a gym teacher.
- 12 primary school teachers assisted by 2 duo-teachers and a gym teacher.
- Children can start school at the age of 2 years and 6 months. Our pre-school and primary school are located in one building they use the same facilities.

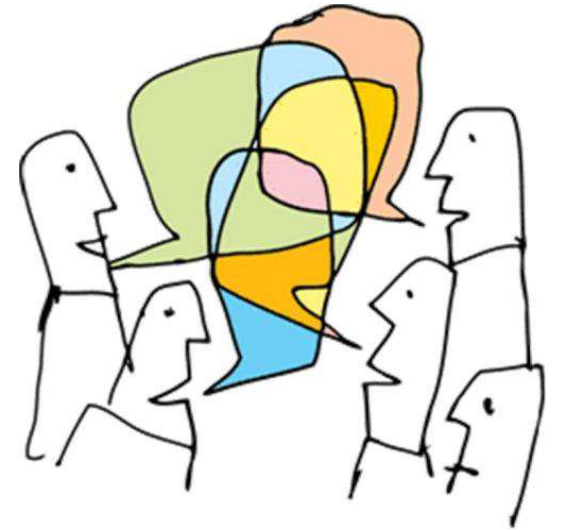
- Most children live in the neighbourhood of the school, one of the poorest areas around Aalst.
- 8,8 percent of those born in Aalst grow up in poverty.
- 20% of the children attending our school have different ethnic-cultural backgrounds.
- Our school has been invested a lot of energy in language policies and cost policies.
- The project is a great opportunity to work specifically towards the care and education of our youngest children who are experiencing a transition from home or childcare to pre-school.
- We hope our collaboration with “Het mezenestje” and “Mensen voor mensen” will only grow and open new opportunities.

Welcome moment





Learning network



- 1X/month
- 1 childcare practitioner, 2 preschool teachers, 1 childcare director, 1 advocacy group member, 1 experiential expert in poverty, 1 preschool director
- Supervised by VBJK, Centre for Innovation in the Early Years
- Method: Action Research and Wanda
- Normative-reflective professionalism

Case study

- Change process will be documented for case study
- Beginning situation and end evaluation will be done by doing focus groups with parents and staff
- Period september – january:
 - Focus on getting to know each other
 - Defining goals learning network
 - Doing problem analysis based on discussions with parents in focus groups