

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a light pink t-shirt, holding a baby in a blue and white striped shirt. The woman is looking towards the camera with a gentle expression, and the baby is looking slightly to the side. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

**A safe and stimulating  
environment for every child**  
Mind the gap

Kind & Gezin



### Veerle Van Assche

- Staff member specialized in CAN
- Pedagogue
- [veerle.vanassche@kindengezin.be](mailto:veerle.vanassche@kindengezin.be)



### Ianthe Van Dorsseleer

- Specialized in CAN
- Pedagogue
- [ianthe.vandorsseleer@kindengezin.be](mailto:ianthe.vandorsseleer@kindengezin.be)



### Majori van Gogh

- Staff member specialized in CAN
- Doctor
- [majori.vangogh@kindengezin.be](mailto:majori.vangogh@kindengezin.be)

## Mind the gap

### Working on a safe and stimulating environment



#### Every child

- Dealing with care reports



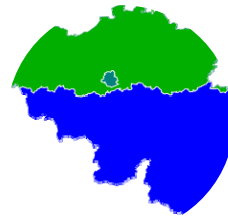
#### Child in family in environment



#### Supporting early stimulation and positive parenting

# Kind & Gezin (Child & Family)

## Flanders (Belgium)



Public Agency  
Flanders  
(Belgium)



For alle  
newborns till  
school

Entrance =  
positive story:  
birth of the  
child

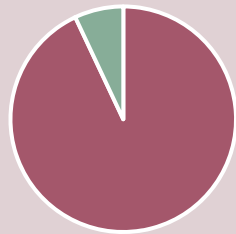
**Every child**

## Every child

Start: do we reach every child?

Unconditional:  
illegal stay, not known, at every moment, ...

Contact



■ home visit ■ no home visit ■ ■

Mandate, especially in concerning situations

E.g.: care reports

E.g.: transition to school

## Dealing with care reports



- Care reports for 526 children (2016)
- Not our core assignment
- Extended procedure
- Outreaching
- Partnership with the parent, shared concern?
- Challenges!



## Partnership with the parent in case of care reports

*Child protection research consistently shows that the development of good working relationships among all stakeholders involved - both professional and familial - is strongly associated with positive outcomes.*  
(Parker, S. 2015)

Safety, well-being and development



Showing interest and being curious



Sharing views on parenting



Connecting with the expertise of parents

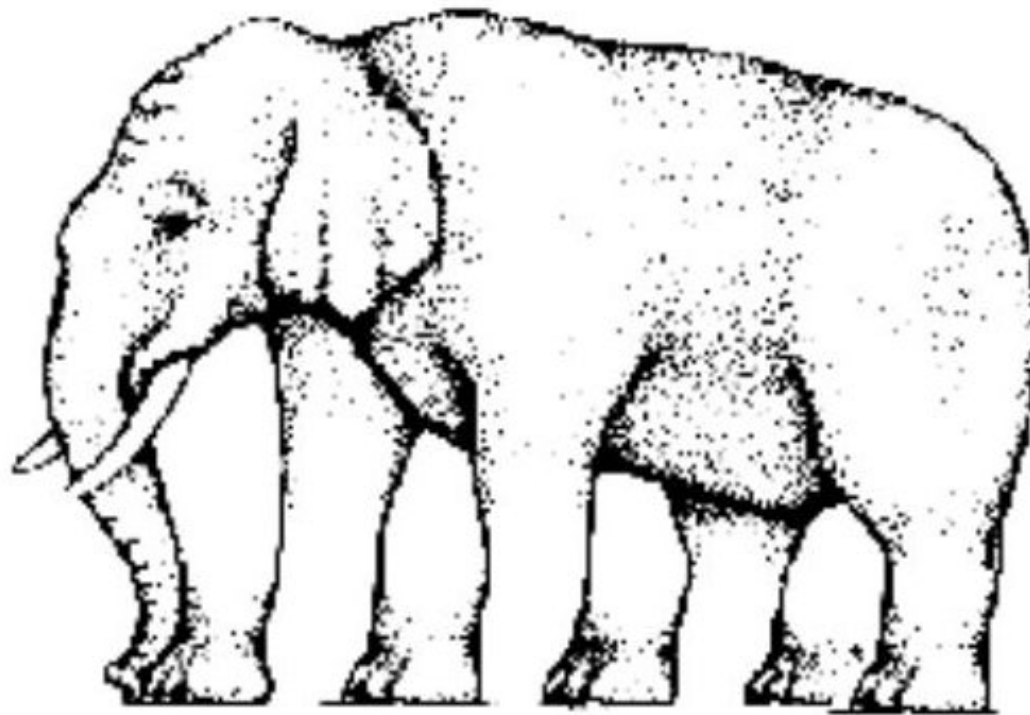


Focusing on solutions



## Making the difference

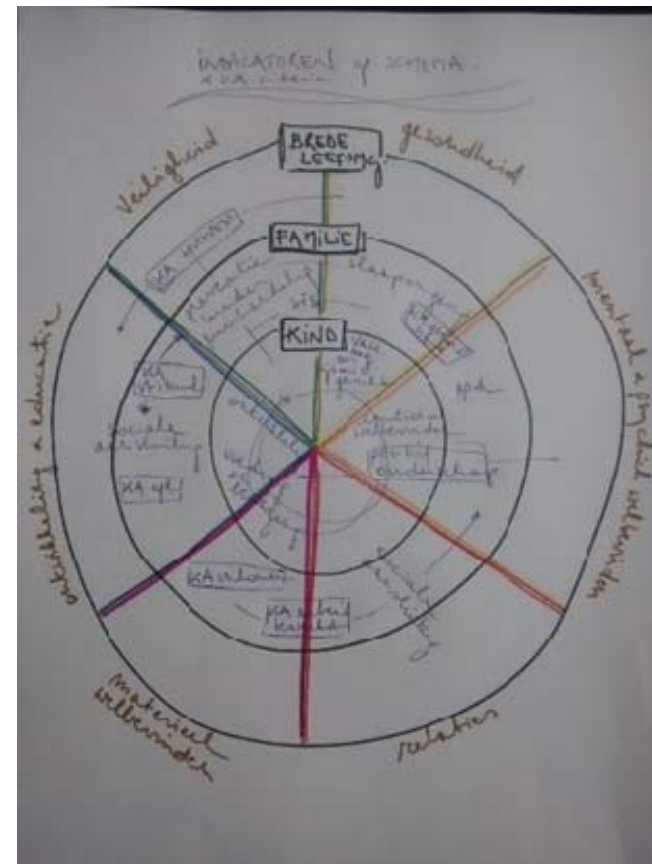
- *Sometimes it's not what it seems*



# Broad multidisciplinary support

## Broad en multidisciplinary approach

- A child AND his family IN a network
- Use of an integrated digital file (Mirage dossier)
- Doctors, district nurses, family support workers and pedagogues work in the same file



<b>Child</b>	<b>Parent and family</b>
<b>Parenting and interaction</b>	<b>Broader environment</b>

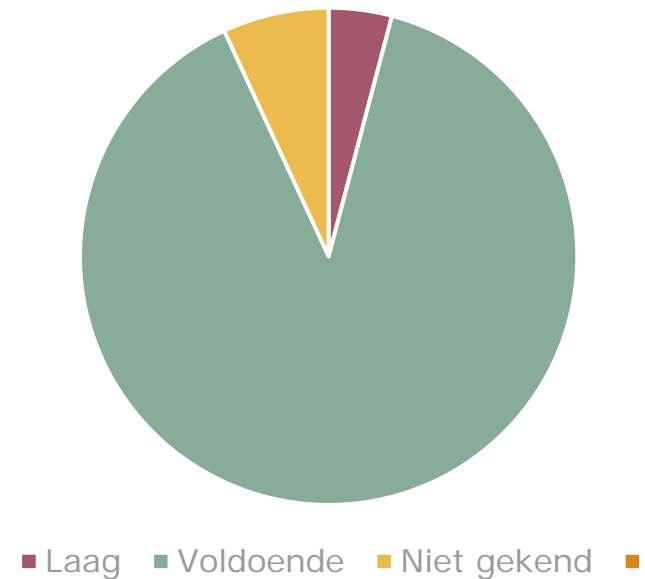
<b>Child</b>	<b>Parent and family</b>
Twins, premature Seriously underweight Delayed development	Parental conflict Father behaves aggressive Father AA Mother seems depressed
<b>Parenting and interaction</b>	<b>Broader environment</b>
Poor mother-child-interaction Father shows no interest in children Twins seemed to look for support by each other	Lack of family support (after death of the maternal grandmother) Financial problems Father has a job Good housing

# Stimulating environment

## Stimulating en responsive environment

- Observing and talking with parents about a stimulating environment
- In the future more attention for low stimulation (deprivation) for instance parent group meetings.

Stimulatie niveau



## Stimulating environment



**458** van deze kinderen kreeg 1 of  
meer extra contacten

over **265** kinderen werd overlegd.

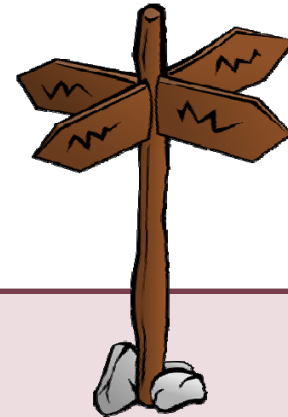
**153** kinderen werden doorverwezen.



## Summary

- Universal approach, connecting with every family and additional support when needed
- In a very early stage and without stigmatization
- A child is part of a family and broad environment: need for a holistic approach
- Roadmap and guidelines, shared by co-workers from different professions

# Roadmap



Legal framework

Support for collaborators