A safe and stimulating environment for every child

Mind the gap
Veerle Van Assche
- Staff member specialized in CAN
- Pedagogue
- veerle.vanassche@kindengezin.be

Ianthe Van Dorsselaer
- Specialized in CAN
- Pedagogue
- ianthe.vandorsselaer@kindengezin.be

Majori van Gogh
- Staff member specialized in CAN
- Doctor
- 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

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
- Extented 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Parent and family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parenting and interaction</td>
<td>Broader environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Child
- Twins, premature
- Seriously underweight
- Delayed development

### Parent and family
- Parental conflict
- Father behaves aggressive
- Father AA
- Mother seems depressed

### Parenting and interaction
- Poor mother-child-interaction
- Father shows no interest in children
- Twins seemed to look for support by each other

### Broader environment
- Lack of family support (after death of the maternal grandmother)
- Financial problems
- Father has a job
- Good housing
Stimulating environment
• Observing and talking with parents about a stimulating environment

• In the future more attention for low stimulation (deprivation) for instance parent group meetings.
Stimulating environment

- 3.9% of 628 children (628 kinderen) were identified with a low stimulation level.
- 80.7% of the children (80.7%) had a stimulating environment.

Of these children:
- 458 children received 1 or more extra contacts.
- 265 children were involved in case conferences or discussions.
- 153 children were referred for further assistance.
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

Being alert for signals and risk factors → Consulting colleagues → Discussion with the parent → Thorough analysis with expert → Decision about necessary help or notification to parquet

Legal framework
Support for collaborators