Family Centres in Flanders

Creating equal opportunities for all children and their families

Leentje De Schuymer
Welkom - Welcome - Bienvenue

Kind & Gezin
(= Child & Family)

Agency of the government in Flanders
Ministry of Welfare, Public Health and Family

Services (infant health services/ 97%)
Active on the policy area of family support + child care + adoption
2010

How can we improve the support for children and their families in Flanders?
Collaboration
Different life domains
Local level
Proportional universalism

The Determinants of Health (1992) Dahigren and Whitehead

2014

EQUALITY

EQUITY
2014

Collaboration
Different life domains
Local level
Proportional universalism

Family centres in Flanders = “Huis van het Kind”

Creating equal opportunities for all children and their families
HUIZEN VAN HET KIND (MET HUN WERKINGSGEBIEDEN) IN VLAANDEREN EN BRUSSELS-HOOFDSTEDELĲK GEWEST
Family Centre: an example
Family centre: another example
Another example

Several municipalities

Substance abuse

Lokale besturen
Scholen
Vrijwilligersgroep
Kind en Gezin
Conclusion

There is much variation between the different family centres in Flanders.

But they all work at building bridges to better health for all children, attuned to the local needs, and with respect to the (more or less limited) local resources they can build on.
However... the latest evolution

To create equal opportunities to better health

Invest in family centres in such a way that they offer integrated services which are accessible for all families and which are attuned to the local needs of the families.

= Family Centres

Design a universal pathway that describes which information and services should be minimally offered during pregnancy and the first years after birth. Design more specific pathways for families with more needs.

Invest in a high-quality system/organisation that makes it possible to implement these pathways (for example: invest in training and education of practitioners)
Thank you!

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