

ACCESS | Guide

Childcare and playgroups

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Childcare and playgroups

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Author : Marvin Goldsmith, August 2010

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Introduction

The Netherlands has no formal educational provision for children under the age of four, the age at which they can begin primary school. Outside the formal education system there are, however, childcare facilities for younger children. Childcare facilities, in the form of out-of-school care, are also available for children of school age. Childcare policy was transferred from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (het Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid) to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (het Ministerie van Onderwijs Cultuur en Wetenschap — OCW)

Rijnstraat 50

Postbus 16375

2500-BJ Den Haag

Tel: (070) 412 34 56

Website: <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ocw>

The Dutch regulation

The government's position is that childcare is a matter of common interest and a shared responsibility of three parties – parents, government and employers – and this has a defining element in childcare policy. Schools are now responsible for care during lunch, and for pre- and after-school care if asked for by parents. It is up to the schools how they organise this, e.g. cooperation with a day care centre.

The Government provides several forms of leave rights for parents to take care for their child, partner or parent:

1. **Maternity leave** (*zwangerschapsverlof*) employees are entitled to 16 weeks of paid maternity leave, starting in most cases 4-6 weeks before the expected date of birth.
2. **Emergency leave** (*calamiteitenverlof*) employees are entitled to a short leave, with salary, when the employee cannot work because of very exceptional personal circumstances. You can be entitled to emergency leave if your child becomes ill and you need to find a reliable person to care him/her at home.
3. **Short-term leave** (*kortdurend zorgverlof*) in addition to emergency leave, employees are also entitled to a maximum of 10 days care leave per year. These leave days are intended for caring for a sick child or foster child living at home, sick partner or parent.
4. **Adoption leave** (*adoptieverlof*) a maximum of 4 weeks paid adoption leave for both parents adopting a child or for both foster parents if it is clear from the start that the child will be joining the family permanently. Adoption leave can start up to two weeks prior to the handover of the child to the adoptive parents.
5. **Birth leave** (*kraamverlof*) two days birth leave for the partner of the woman who has given birth or the person who legally acknowledges the child.

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Opa Bakkebaard (Grandpa Sideburns)

This is an excellent website which can be used to determine the amount of subsidy that could be potentially received. It requires a form to be filled out and they will send the calculation (*berekening*). Enter all your details including your telephone number. The babysitter subsidy may be complicated to calculate.

Voorhaven 73

3025 HD

Rotterdam

Tel: (010) 425 99 62

Fax : 084 - 751 58 10

Website: <http://www.opa-bakkebaard.nl/index.html>

E-mail: info@opa-bakkebaard.nl

Kinds of Care

Family, child and informal care

Approximately half the users of childcare provision use more than one type of care: childcare while parents work: playgroup, at-home-care with members of the family or with a child minder or other caregiver.

Playgroups, nurseries and pre-schools

These are informal groups that usually meet weekly and provide mothers (and occasionally fathers) of children aged zero to three years with the opportunity to meet and chat over a cup of coffee, while their children play together in the same room. The parent often stays for the entire first session, gradually reducing the length of the stay during sessions until the child is happy to be left there alone. Regular attendance is usually required. You may have to choose between accepting a day that may not be particularly convenient, or waiting until there's a space on your preferred day. Never be put off by an apparently long waiting list; remember how suddenly expats come and go. The children can play with different toys and learn to socialise with others. A small fee is charged to cover room hire, refreshments and the purchase of toys.

Baby-sitter (*Oppas*)

The Dutch word *oppas* covers a range of options from teenagers to qualified child minders. These may be useful for evenings and shorter periods of time. Most neighbourhood magazines and some of the local expatriate websites post small ads with names of students offering babysitting services. Check with local schools or neighbours for recommendations. Most Dutch teenagers speak English well so communication should not prove an issue with small children. Hourly rates vary and usually a higher fee is paid for any time worked after midnight.

Baby-sitters service (*Oppascentrale*)

Some *oppascentrales* ask a membership fee for six months or a year. You are entitled to call whenever you need a baby-sitter. Note that the cost of the baby-sitter is separate from the membership fee. The advantages are that you can nearly always get a sitter

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and the costs are reasonable. The disadvantages are that it may be a different person every time and their experience may vary. You should also plan ahead and book, especially over the summer period.

Nursery (*Kinderdagverblijf*)

At a nursery, children between zero and four years can be accommodated at a day-care centre when their parents are at work. Most nurseries are open from 08.00 am to 18.00 pm, and there is also 24-hour childcare available (see below).

Preschools (*Peuterspeelzaal/Peutergroep*)

The preschool is for children between two and four years. Two to three times a week the toddlers spend a few hours playing with other children and doing other activities.

Child-minding (*Gastouderopvang*)

This is available for babies, toddlers and elementary school children. The Dutch word *gastouder* describes someone who looks after your child for a fixed number of hours per week. The care will be provided by a child-minder who is connected to a host parent agency. The child-minder can care for the children in their own home or in the homes of a care centre. A child-minder can simultaneously accommodate up to six children. Care is not restricted to weekdays; some *gastouders* work evenings and/or weekends. The link between parents and carers is provided by a host parent agency. The host parent agency annually verifies that the house where the care takes place is safe for children and hygienic. From January 1st 2010, the host parents must be registered in the National Register of Childcare (*Landelijk Register Kinderopvang*).

Out of School Care Centres (*Naschoolse Opvang*) or (*Buitenschoolse Opvang*)

This is for children aged four to twelve years. Following the school hours, the children are cared for, and also on days when there is no school (including school holidays). The children get something to eat and drink. Then they may participate in (outdoor) games, crafts, reading, computing and guidance on homework. Some childcare facilities have a contract with a sports club, or a community centre, or in a music school. Just like at home - the child may choose what they want to do. Parents are entitled to receive before- and after-school care for their children from 7:30 to 18:30.

Flexible day care (*Flexibele dagopvang*)

This is a form of care in which a fixed number of sessions per week can be completed flexibly. The flexible day care is for children aged zero to four years.

The 24- hour reception (*De 24-uurs opvang*)

This is intended primarily for children of parents who work irregular shifts. It is the most flexible form of childcare which can provide day, evening and night care. Even during weekends, care is possible.

Au Pair

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An au pair is a person aged from 18 to 26 years (usually female) that is placed with a family to provide childcare and some light housework in exchange for room, board and pocket money. An au pair usually works on a one-year contract. The host family is expected to integrate the au pair into family life as much as possible and give her the opportunity to be in contact with Dutch culture and to learn the Dutch language or attend another type of class. Most families find their au pair through an agency, which normally takes responsibility for checking references and language proficiency; but, networking with friends and contacts have proved fruitful for some. Some contacts are also listed in Yellow Pages (*Gouden Gids*) under “*Au Pair bureaus*”.

Au-Pair Select

This agency gives you all the information you need to learn about au pairs, host families, and immigration laws.

Jacques Perklaan 46
2024 JT
Haarlem
Contact Name: Yvette Levendal or Eric Boeijenga
Tel: (065) 435 75 24
Website: <http://www.aupairselect.nl/>
E-mail: info@aupairselect.nl

Find Au Pair

This is a large site for au pair, nanny jobs and childcare services.
Website: <http://www.findaupair.com/>
E-mail: info@findaupair.com

House of Orange Au Pair

Placement within The Netherlands:
Jan Van Nassastraat 88
2596 BW
The Hague
Tel: (070) 324 59 03
Fax: (070) 324 59 13
Website: <http://www.house-o-orange.nl/>

Worldwide Au Pair & Nanny (WWA&N)

Pieter Calandlaan 489
1068 NM Amsterdam Tel: (020) 411 60 10
Fax: (020) 611 03 30
Skype: wwapna
Website: <http://www.worldwideaupair-nanny.com/>
E-mail: info@wwa-n.nl

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BabysittersFout! Bladwijzer niet gedefinieerd.

Babysitting agencies are listed in the phone book, Yellow Pages or in local newspaper advertisements under *Oppascentrales*. You can also call ACCESS for more contacts.

Amsterdam Telephone: (020) 423 32 17

Den Haag Telephone: (070) 346 25 25

Looking for a Babysitter

The following is a list of useful websites to help you look for a babysitter. Please be careful when choosing someone to care for your child: always ask for and check references, and have a telephone interview before inviting someone to your home.

Expatriates

There is a childcare section in this one but you will have to sift through to find ones relevant to the Netherlands

Website: <http://www.expatriates.com/>

Expatica

There are lots of people here offering nanny, au pair and babysitting service that are English speaking! Be sure to check both the domestic services as well as playgroups and daycare listings.

Website: <http://www.expatica.com/>

Kriterion Babysitter Central

The above is a reliable, local organisation of sitters between 18 and 30 years that are studying at the College or University and living in Amsterdam.

Valckenierstraat 45

1018 XE Amsterdam

Tel: (020) 624 58 48

Website: <http://www.kriterionoppas.org/>

Oppas Markt

This can be used to find a child-minder and usually refers to someone who looks after your child in their own home.

Website: www.oppasmarkt.nl

Oppasser Gezocht

This can be used to find a babysitter—fill in your town in the first box to find babysitters in your area. You will have to pay a fee to get access to contact information for 3 months

Website: <http://www.oppassergezocht.nl/info.php>

Marktplaats

To use this service you are required to insert the website address below and then proceed to *Diensten – Oppas en Kinderopvang*. Then type in your postal code in the box that is next to the “zoek” (search) button that is on the top right of the page. Click the tab

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which reads “*aangeboden*” (3 lines down). In the “*alle afstanden*” menu choose the preferred distance from your house i.e. <5km or <10km and press “*zoek*” again.

Website: <http://www.marktplaats.nl/>

Speurders

Here you will find advertisements which are mostly in Dutch, for babysitters, childminders, nannies and au pairs. Visit Speurders, go to “Kind en Baby” and then “*Oppas gevraagd en aangeboden*”. Choose which location in the left margin.

Website: <http://www.speurders/>

Zoekoppas

This is a good website for sourcing babysitters as it is the most complete babysitter website of the Netherlands, with over 45.000 registered! When you click on ‘ouders’, you will find a place where you can place an advertisement to find a babysitter (*oppas*).

Elektroweg 11- J
3051 NB
Rotterdam

PO Box 35028
3005 DA
Rotterdam
Fax: (084) 723 70 78
Website: <http://www.zoekoppas.nl/>
E-mail: info@zoekoppas.nl

Nannies

A nanny is an in-home childcare provider who has either extensive experience caring for children or has graduated from a nanny school. Most nanny training programmes include first aid and Cardiopulmonaire Resuscitation (CPR) certification, as well as instruction in health, nutrition and recreation. Note that the employing family is liable to pay social security for them, which may be expensive.

Get a Nanny

On this site, you can quickly and easily find a suitable nanny for your children in your neighbourhood. When you enter a postcode, or place, you can instantly see what babysitters are all available in your area. There isn’t any brokerage costs involved with this service.

Website: <http://www.getananny.nl/>

Crèches

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There are a number lot of fitness centres, and stores like IKEA who operate crèches (kinderopvang) during the daytime. Sometimes you have to pay a small amount.

Child-minders (*gastouders*)

Advertisements for *gastouders* can be found in your local newspaper under *oppas*, or on the notice board at the *consultatiebureau*. They can also be viewed in the online Yellow Pages (*Gouden Gids*) by looking under *gastouderbureau*.

Website: www.goudengids.nl

De Branchevereniging Ondernemers in de Kinderopvang

(The Association for Entrepreneurs in Childcare)

This is a young and growing association representing the interests of Dutch entrepreneurs who provide professional care for children aged 0 to 12 years.

PO Box 93002

2509 AA

Den Haag

Tel: (070) 349 03 17

Fax: (070) 349 02 89

E-mail: secretariaat@kinderopvang.nl

Gastouderacademie (Childminding Academy)

This institution provides training and education for host parents and also offers learning via the internet.

Postbus 312

9700 AH

Groningen

Website: <http://www.gastouderacademie.nl/>

E-mail: info@gastouderacademie.nl

Gastouderservice Nederland

Parents who are looking for child-care and carers may contact each other directly through this facility.

Postbus 504

9700 AM

Groningen

Tel: (050) 850 85 05

Fax: (050) 850 88 99

Website: <http://www.gastouderopvang.nlhy/>

E-mail: info@gastouderservice.nl

Hop Marjanneke

This child-minding agency operates on a national level and has a reputation for working

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quickly.

Wilhelminastraat 33b
2410 AC
Bodegraven

PO Box 104
2410 AC
Bodegraven
Tel: (017) 264 46 44
Fax: (017) 264 46 00
Website: <http://www.hopmarjanneke.nl/>
E-mail: hm@hopmarjanneke.nl

NIGOS -Stichting Nederlands Instituut voor Gastouderschap

The Dutch Institute for Guest Parenting works on the professionalisation of child-minding. They help host parents at an accredited, affordable and efficient way to new competence requirements. They also develop training for host parents and agency staff.

Benoordenhoutseweg 23
2596 BA
's-Gravenhage
Tel: (0900) 427 86 83 (0900-Gastouder)
Website: <http://www.nigos.nl/>
E-mail: info@nigos.org

Stichting Klachtencommissie Kinderopvang (SKK)

The Foundation for Child Complaints is a national organisation with a central information and hotline. They hear complaints and answer questions, give advice and make clear what steps can be taken in the given circumstances.

Tel: (0900) 040 00 34
Website: <http://www.klachtkinderopvang.nl/>
E-mail: info@klachtkinderopvang.nl

Useful child-care addresses

Netherlands

Kinderopvang Nederland

Childcare Netherlands is a national group of various childcare organisations that offers professional child-care - care consistent with the wishes of parents, where the child is always central. Childcare Netherlands stands for commitment, professionalism, quality and security.

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Pico Cooper
CEO High Gouwe 93
2801 LD
Gouda

PO Box 304
2800 AH Gouda
Tel: (088) 235 75 00

Mobile: (06 5) 314 43 51
Fax: (088) 235 75 01
E-mail: p.kuiper@kinderopvangnederland.nl

Stichting Kinderopvang Humanitas

One of the largest childcare providers non-profit organisations, with more than 200 play centres; nurseries, child-care centres, and kindergartens throughout the Netherlands. Every day thousands of children get from zero to thirteen years to join a diverse selection in a secure and trusted environment.

Humanitas offers a place where your child feels welcome, where he or she may be who he or she is. The teaching staff are professionals who encourage and accompany the child on his exploration of life.

Childcare (*kinderopvang*)
Childminding (*gastouderopvang*)
Tel: (0900) 510 15 20 (Monday—Friday, 8.30-17.00).
Fax: (045) 561 53 99
Website: <http://www.kinderopvanghumanitas.nl/>
E-mail: info@kinderopvanghumanitas.nl

Almere

ABCDE Almere Baby Club for Dutch and English

ABCDE gives parents somewhere for support and contact while giving the children a safe environment in which to play. It is an informal, casual drop-in group which has a core mainstay of people so there is always a 'familiar face' around.

Parkwijk Buurtcentrum
Haagbeukweg 42
1326 CP Almere
Tel: (036) 537 55 38
Website: <http://www.parkwijkalmere.nl/abcde>
E-mail: abcdeplaygroup@yahoo.com

Amsterdam

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2 Voices & 2 Voices Parkside

These are two Montessori pre-schools that were established to satisfy the needs of young children in families where two languages are spoken. The pre-school is for children at least 12 months old, able to walk and from families where two languages are spoken. The schools are located close to the lively centre of Amsterdam, near the beautiful Vondel Park and with easy access to city centre and surrounding towns. 2 Voices welcomes all children from all races, nationalities, cultures, religions and with different handicaps.

2 Voices

Derde Kostverlorenkade 34
1054 TS
Amsterdam
Tel: (020) 683 33 83

2 Voices (Parkside)

Zocherstraat 68
1054 MA Amsterdam
Tel: (020) 618 51 32
Website: <http://www.2voices.net/>
E-mail: Voices2@xs4all.nl

Jacaranda Tree Montessori

This centre also provides a Montessori environment in Amsterdam for children under 3 and their parents. The Montessori approach fosters children's love of learning and encourages independence by providing an environment of activities and materials which children use at their own pace. This builds self-confidence, inner discipline, a sense of self-worth and instils positive social behaviour.

Derde Schinkelstraat 33-A
1075 TK
Amsterdam
Contact Name : Simone Davies
Mobile: 061 600 90 60
Website: <http://www.jacarandatreemontessori.nl/>
E-mail: info@jacarandatreemontessori.nl

Kinderopvang Amsterdam

Kinderopvang provides an overview of childcare settings in and around Amsterdam for (future) parents. You can also find information related to child care, fees and government support. You can search for childcare institutions in a particular neighbourhood or district.

Website: <http://www.kinderopvang-amsterdam.nl/>

Robbeburg:

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Robbeburg is an international play group (not-for-profit) run by mothers for kids aged 0-4 years. Join one of the nine daily (apart from weekend) English speaking play sessions any morning at 10am or afternoon (other languages) at 2pm.

Jekerstraat 84
1078 MG
Amsterdam
Tel: (020) 640 56 47
Website: <http://www.robbeburg.com/>
E-mail: membership@robbeburg.com

Bergschenhoek

Funtazia

An English language nursery playgroup near Rotterdam, for children from 2 to 4 years of age. The nursery's curriculum provides a full range of pre-school activities, giving opportunities to all children to assist them in achieving their development skills. Toddlers are welcome at Funtazia on week days from 9:00 till 12:00. The nursery offers three mornings program on Monday, Wednesday on Friday.

Anthonie van Dijklaan 1
2661 TP
Bergschenhoek
Contact Name: Colette Skaff
Mobile: 062 283 71 21
Website: <http://www.funtazia.nl/>
E-mail: info@funtazia.nl

Breda

COKB (Centrale Org Kinderopvang Breda)

Provides over 100 day-care centres only in the municipality of Breda and for children aged 0-13 years.

Hooilaan 1
4816 EM
Breda

Postbus 7482
4800 GL
Breda
Tel: (076) 504 56 00
Fax: (076) 504 56 09
Website: www.kobergroep.nl
E-mail: info@kober.nl

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Delft

Delft MaMa (Delft Maternity and Motherhood Assistance)

This organisation promotes the well-being and integration of international mothers-to-be and new mothers (with children from 0 to 4 years of age) in and around Delft, Zuid-Holland. It runs pregnancy and maternity support groups. Furthermore, it is a multi-cultural group with English as the main language.

Tuinstraat 25

2613 RB

Delft

Tel: (015) 213 5288

Website: <http://www.delftmama.nl/>

E-mail: info@delftmama.nl

Den Haag

2 Samen Kinderopvang

There are more than 50 child-care centres in Den Haag that provides several types of care including:

- Childhood (Kinderdagverblijf) for 0-4 years and all-day care from 7:30-18:00
- Extended daycare from 7:00-18:30
- Playgroup (Peuterspeelzaal) for 2-4 years at 08:45 and 11:30
- Schoolcare (Buitenschoolse Opvang) for 4-13 years
- After-school care (Naschoolse Opvang) or NSO from 15:00 onwards-18:00 (including or excluding holidays)
- Extended school care until 18:30
- Pre-school Care (Voorschoolse Opvang) or VSO at 7:30
- Lunch-time Care (Tussenschoolse Opvang) or TSO at 12:00+-13:30+
- Holiday Care (Vacantieopvang) for 12 weeks during the school holidays

Laan van Meerdervoort 70

2517 AN

Den Haag/

Postbus 16555

2500 BN

Den Haag

Tel: (070) 338 55 00

Fax: (070) 338 55 01

Website: <http://www.2samen.nl/>

E-mail: info@2samen.nl

BCH Mums and Tots Group (English-speaking childcare that meets every Friday)

Nieywe Duinweg 25

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2587 AB
Den Haag
Tel: (070) 346 19 73
E-mail: info@britishclubthehague.nl

Bumps and Babies Group

This is an English speaking group for pregnant mums and parents of new-borns and babies not yet walking. It forms an informal support group for parents raising a baby in Holland and meets in the church lounge. There is a small cost to join which contributes to rent and refreshments. For further details please contact the church office which is open every weekday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

St. John & St. Philip Anglican Church (lounge)
Riouwstraat 2C (with Ary van der Spuyweg 1)
Den Haag
Tel: (070) 355 53 59
E-mail: churchoffice@stjohn-stphilip.org

Great Expectations

Great expectations offers courses in birth preparation, baby massage and first aid for parents.

Kerkstraat 35a
2514 KR Den Haag
Tina Keogh
Tel: 06 5063 44 34
Website: <http://www.greatexpectations.nl/>
E-mail: tina@greatexpectations.nl

Daisy Chain Play group

An English-speaking playgroup catering to the needs of the international community for children aged 2.5 and potty trained to 4 years old. The sessions take place on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 09.00-12.00 and on Tuesday afternoon from 11.30-14.00.

Riouwstraat 2-C
2585 HA The Hague
Tel: 06 8102 67 82 (during play group hours) or 06 4193 64 07 (after play group hours)
Website: <http://www.daisychainplaygroup.com/>
E-mail: admindaisychain@gmail.com

MOPS in Holland

The MOPS organisation is for mothers of pre-school children and individuals that are interested in joining can access their website to find details for the local groups. The groups meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at Trinity Baptist

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International Church in the city of Leidschendam. The church is located approximately 35 kilometres southwest of Amsterdam and just a few kilometres east of the Hague. The cities of Wassenaar, Voorburg, Voorschoten and Leiden are just minutes away by car. It can also be reached by public transportation and there is a tram stop just 30 meters away.

Gruttolaan 23
2262 ET
Leidschendam
Tel: (070) 517 80 24
Website: <http://www.mopsinholland.org/>
E-mail: mopsinholland@yahoo.com

Parent and Toddler Group Voorburg

English-speaking childcare that meets Wednesday mornings from 09.30 -11.15. There is a charge to cover costs.

Bruijnings Ingenhoeslaan/ Koningin Julianalaan
Voorburg (in the KoningKerk)
The entrance is in Staringkade.
Tram 2, or bus 23 to Bruijnings Ingenhoeslaan.

Rainbow Tots

Rainbow Tots is an English-speaking parent and baby/toddler group. Our aim is to create a fun, informal and relaxed environment in which parents/carers and children can meet each other and play together. The sessions take place every Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 09.45 until 11.30. The sessions end with a group song time.

Hall of St. John & St. Philip Church
Ary van der Spuyweg 1
Den Haag
Tel: (070) 355 53 59
Contact Name: Sarah Zilderveld
E-mail: rainbowtotsthehague@gmail.com or sara@zilderveld.com

Red Fish Blue Fish

English-speaking pre-school for children aged 2 ½ to 4 years old which is open 5 mornings a week and covers two locations in the area. Their aim is to provide a stimulating and fun environment.

Schelpkade 43-45
(near Javastraat)
2514 KB
Den Haag

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Sumatrastraat 140
2585 CT
Den Haag
Contact Name: Siobhan Thorne
Tel: (070) 354 65 02
Mobile: 06 891 4466
Website: <http://www.rfbf.nl/>
E-mail: info@rfbf.nl

Stichting Kinderopvang DAK

Professional care for children aged 0-13 years at over 70 childcare centres across Haaglanden.

- Day care (*dagopvang*) - Children between 0 and 4 years can be cared for in day care; also referred to as crèches. DAK takes into account the feeding, changing and playing schedule of your child. Open 7.30 am -18.00 pm
- After school care (*buitenschoolse opvang*) - open from 07.30 am until 18.30 pm. Care for children between the age of 4 and 13 years old. During school holidays your child can be taken care of at these centres. After school, DAK can up your child and bring him or her to the child centre. Children can talk about their day, do some homework or just relax and play
- Playgroups (*peuterspeelzaal*) - for toddlers between the age of 2.5 and 4 years. Care can be given several times a week, but only for half days. During these days they can play with clay, sing and do other activities.

Noordwal 10
2513 EA
Den Haag

PO Box 10395
2501 HJ
Den Haag
Tel: (070) 750 21 00 (between 08:00 – 17:30)
Fax: (070) 362 36 09
Website: <http://www.dakkindercentra.nl/>
E-mail: info@dakkindercentra.nl

Triodus Kinderopvang

Quality English-speaking daycare for children aged 0-4 years, and childcare for children aged 4 - 12 years at nearly 50 locations in the Hague.

Koninginnegracht 10
2514 AA
Den Haag

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PO Box 13150
2501 ED
Den Haag
Tel: (070) 312 00 00
Website: <http://www.triodus.nl/>

Willows English Language Playschool

A private playschool which provides a happy and stimulating learning environment that meets the developmental needs of children from 18 months to 4 years old, morning or afternoon sessions.

Oostdorperweg 54-54a
2242- NL
Wassenaar
Contact Name: Ms. Ginny Whitty
Mobile: 065 123 16 04
E-mail: willowschool@hotmail.com

Windmill Playgroup

The Windmill is an English speaking pre-school for International children aged 2 to 5 years old. Since it was established in 2000, The Windmill has earned an excellent reputation with parents past and present plus the British and International schools around the Dutch city of The Hague. Within the website you will see that The Windmill is a structured playgroup / pre-school whose curriculum promotes child development in accordance with the UK Department of Education Foundation Stage. Voorburg School is located at Elzendreef 6, Voorburg and offers sessions from 09:00 to 11:30 and 12:15 to 14:45 for children aged 2 to 5 years.

Correspondence address:

PO Box 1022
2260BA Leidschendam
Tel: (070) 327 20 88
Fax: (070) 327 64 33

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School address:

Elzendreef 6-8

2272 EB

Voorburg

Windmill toddler's location:

Sporthal Essesteijn

Elzendreef 18

2272 EB

Voorburg

Website: <http://www.thewindmill.nl/>

E-mail: info@thewindmill.nl

Hilversum

Hilversum International Mums and Tots Group

The Hilversum mums and tots group is aimed at the expat community in and around Hilversum. There is a meeting each Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30. If you have tots aged 0-4, come along! They can play and we can chat! Just turn up, the cost is €2.00 per visit.

Buurtcentrum De Lelie

Leliestraat 6

1214 HG

Hilversum

Contact Name: Kate van der Meijs

Website: <http://www.elynx.nl/> (search under 'activities: children and parents')

E-mail: kvandermeijs@hotmail.com

Hilversum: wrigglers and gigglers

An English-speaking multi-cultural group for mothers and toddlers that meets every Friday morning (during the school term/semester) at 10:00 in the Hilversum International Christian Centre. Mothers without babies are welcome for a cup of coffee and a friendly chat too.

Nieuweweg 148

1214 HA

Hilversum

Contact Name: Yvette

E-mail: wrigglersaandgigglers@gmail.com

Ranstad

B4KIDS

One of the largest providers of childcare in the Randstad offers nursery, child care and childminding. Centers can be found in the following places: Leiden, Leidschendam,

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Lisse, Nieuw Vennep, Noordwijkerhout, Rijnsburg, Sassenheim, Voorburg, Voorhout, Voorschoten, Warmond. They also provide screened baby-sitters.

Noordeinde 54
2311 CE
Leiden

Postbus 2201
2301 CE
Leiden
Tel: (071) 516 34 00 (weekdays)
E-mail: info@b4kids.nl

Rijswijk

Rijswijk play group

Rijswijk is an English-speaking playgroup which is based close to the Rijswijk Shell offices. It caters for the international community and children aged between 2 and 4 years of age +. The sessions have a maximum of 16 children and are held on Mondays and Wednesdays between 09.15 and 12.15. There is also a session on Thursday from 12.00-14.30.

Laboucherelaan 1
2283 EG
Rijswijk
(close to the Rijswijk Shell offices).
Tel: (070) 390 39 95 or (070) 394 7955
Website: <http://www.rijswijkplaygroup.nl/>
E-mail: Alison.zegers@planet.nl

Stichting Rijswijkse Kinderopvang

Stichting Rijswijkse Kinderopvang provides professional care for children from 6 weeks to 14 years within the municipalities of Rijswijk and The Hague.

P. Van Vlietlaan 10
2285 XM
Rijswijk
PO Box 593
2280 AN
Rijswijk
Tel: (088) 001 71 00
Website: <http://www.kinderopvang-plein.nl/>
For information about registration and placements:
E-mail: info@kinderopvang-plein.nl
For childminding information:

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E-mail: gastouderbureau@kinderopvang-plein.nl

Rotterdam

Childcare in Rotterdam

The websites highlighted below provide an overview of day-care centres in Rotterdam. Through this link you can search by district to various types of childcare such as nurseries or playgroups.

Website: <http://www.rotterdam.nl/kinderopvanginrotterdam>

Website: <http://www.allesinrotterdam.nl/>

(Check under category “*kinderdagverblijf*” (nursery) and/or “*kinderopvang*” (childcare)).

DISCK (Delfshavense Instelling voor Sociaalwerk and Kinderopvang) Toddler & Co.

The organisation runs approximately 50 day-care centres in Rotterdam for children aged 0-12 years. The pre-school is for children from 2-4 years and runs 4 mornings or afternoons a week. The groups are small with 12-18 children normally and are run under the expert guidance of enthusiastic teachers.

PO Box 3019

3003 AA

Rotterdam

Tel: (010) 244 58 52 or (010) 244 58 74

Website: <http://www.disck.nl/>

E-mail: peuter-co@disck.nl

KORN (Kinderopvang Rotterdam Noord Stichting)

Walloons Burgerplein 106 -108

3039 AN

Rotterdam

Tel: (010) 467 16 98 (from 9.00 to 13.00)

Fax: (010) 466 08 84

Website: <http://www.korn.nl/>

E-mail: info@korn.nl

Utrecht

International Women's Contact Utrecht (IWCU) - Mums & Tots

The mornings are open to all IWCU members, whether you have tots or not. If you're expecting a baby, or you're thinking of starting a family, or you just feel like being around someone else's kids, join one of these spirited mornings to pick up some useful advice and also have a great time. If you're looking for an informal coffee and chat, these playgroups provide fun ways to meet other IWCU members plus the children get to spend time with English-speaking playmates.

Childcare and playgroups

Immanuelkerk Wijkgemeente, Wijkgebouw De Schakel
Soestdijkseweg 49b
3732 HD
De Bilt
Contact Name: Carrie Van Zalk
Tel: (035) 621 49 31
Website: <http://www.iwcu.nl/>

Vianen

SKON

SKON offers day-care, after school care and other kinds of care.

Sportlaan 1
4131 NN
Vianen

Postbus 396
4130 EJ
Vianen
Tel: (0347) 35 95 00
Fax: (0347) 35 95 01
Website: <http://www.skon.nl/>
E-mail: info@skon.nl

Voorhout

First Friends Playgroup (English-speaking childcare)

De Spelewey
Breughelhof 8
2215 AB
Voorhout
Webblog: <http://www.firstfriendsvoorhout.blogspot.comhy/>
E-mail: firstfriendsvoorhout@gmail.com

Voorschoten

Voorschoten Parent and Toddler Group

An English-speaking group of mothers/fathers with babies and children who voluntarily provide play sessions for children under 5 years old and their carers, in their local community. There is no lower age limit and the meetings take place weekly on Tuesday mornings from 09.30-11.30. The group is used by grandparents, aunts and uncles, child-minders and nannies as well as parents

Moeder Gods Church

Baron Schimmelpennick v.d. Oyelaan 18
Voorschoten

Childcare and playgroups

Contact Name: April Marvin
Website: www.voorschotentoddlers.webs.com
E-mail: voorschotentoddlers@gmail.com

Voorschoten Playgroup

English-speaking playschool for children aged 2-4 years. Non-English-speaking and special needs children are welcome. It is open Monday-Friday (except Wednesdays) from 13:00-15:30.

Sixlaan 4
2252 GC
Voorschoten
Contact Name : Jean Lumley
Tel: (071) 576 56 64; (070) 591 77 31

Wassenaar

English Speaking Mother and Toddler Group

A friendly, international, English-speaking playgroup meeting every Thursday morning from 9:30-11:30am. They have a wide variety of toys, books and puzzles. Each session includes a simple craft activity, refreshments and singing.

Deylercentrum
Hofcampweg 3
Wassenaar
Contact Name: Susan Ranebo (tel: 070 517 60 10) or
Gillian Weinberg (tel: 070 511 57 20)
Website: <http://wassenaarmtg.blogspot.com/>
E-mail: wassenaarmtg@gmail.com

TASID (The Activity Shop International Daycare)

TASID is an international English language-based child care centre with programs for 0-12 year olds, located in Wassenaar and in close proximity to The Hague and Leidschendam area. TASID provides a structured, enriched program that enables your child to develop in a warm and caring atmosphere. TASID is open Monday to Friday from 07:30 until 18:30.

Hallekenstraat 28 A
2242 VB
Wassenaar
Tel: (070) 514 67 38

TASID Annex and Office:
Van Zuylen van Nijveltstraat 322

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2242 LN Wassenaar
Tel: (070) 511 75 23
Fax: (070) 514 14 95
Website: <http://www.tasid.nl/>
E-mail: tasid@xs4all.nl

The Clown Club

An International and pre-school English-speaking day-care centre open from 07:45 - 18:00 hrs. They offer qualified, professional staff and have specialist teachers in music, art, 'kindercise' (exercise), drama and dance. Children from 2 months through to 5 years are welcomed in four different age groups.

Johan de Wittstraat 33
2242 LA
Wassenaar
Contact Name: Angeline Sрати
Tel: (070) 514 09 81
Fax: (070) 511 46 85
Website: <http://www.theclownclub.com>
E-mail: theclownclub@wxs.nl/

Additional miscellaneous websites

Amstelveen: Bump & Beyond Childbirth Classes

English childbirth preparation courses aimed at first time parents and parents giving birth in the Netherlands for the first time. The courses are taught by fully qualified antenatal teachers.

Website: <http://www.bumpandbeyond.nl/>

Autism Association for Overseas Families in The Netherlands

This organisation provides support for expatriate families with an autistic spectrum disorder child to connect with other families based in The Hague.

Email: mail@aaof.info

Babylolly on-line baby book

A website allowing expat parents to capture all their baby's precious moments and share them with family and friends back home. Features include photo albums, videos, baby journals, milestones, growth charts and more.

Website: <http://www.babylolly.com/>

Biebels Kinderwinkel

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Toys and gifts for children; things for children's parties, suggestions, treats, etc.

Mr. P. S. Gerbrandysingel 57

6836 KS Arnhem

Tel: (026) 327 24 65

Website: <http://www.biebels.nl/>

Bureau Jeugdzorg

This site provides general information over child and youth welfare in the Netherlands; there are fifteen youth bureaus - one in each province, and one in each of the three major cities and the surrounding area; it gives access to the local bureaus.

Website: <http://www.bureaujeugdzorg.info/> (In Dutch)

Bureau Jeugdzorg Noord-Holland (Association for child and youth welfare in North-Holland)

Postbus 5247

2000-CE

Haarlem

Tel: (088) 777 80 00

Fax: (088) 777 810 1

Website: <http://www.bjznh.nl/> (in Dutch)

Children with special needs

The Hague Support Group

The Hague Support Group is a group of parents of children with various special needs, medical, behavioural, educational, who meet regularly for coffee to offer mutual support, exchange information and pool resources. Anyone with an interest in the group, both personally and professionally, is welcomed.

Contact Name : Cathy (tel 070 317 51 01) or Nathalie (tel : 070 319 38 08)

Website: <http://www.paguro.net/expat-life/local/holland/all-documents-the-hague/the-hague-special-needs-children>

CIZ (Centrum Indicatiestelling Zorg)

This organisation helps people to find if they are entitled to get care under the AWBZ (National Act on Exceptional Medical Expenses).

Tel: 0900 14 04

Website: <http://www.ciz.nl> (in Dutch)

Dyslexia Untied

Children that suffer from Dyslexia are intelligent and perceptive but often don't get support for reading, writing and other learning activities at school. Using proven visualisation techniques your child can improve their learning skills, be more creative, communicative and gain in confidence.

Contact Name: Kenneth Budd

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Website: <http://www.dyslexiauntied.blogspot.com/>

E-mail: Budd36@zonnet.nl

English Language Speech Centre

Their mission is to serve those in the English-language community in need of speech and language therapy in a warm and caring manner.

Rietvinklaan 4

2265 CC

Leidschendam

Tel: (070) 369 3848

E-mail: speech@euronet.nl

International Children & Parents Club

An organisation designed to meet the needs of English speakers, their partners and children in the Gorinchem area. It provides an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, and gives the children a chance to practice their English, all within a social environment.

Website: <http://www.icpc.info/>

E-mail: ICPC@icpc.info

La Leche League of Amsterdam

Mother-to-Mother breastfeeding support meetings in English. Are you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or thinking about breastfeeding? Would you like to meet other mothers? Join with your baby and your questions.

Contact Name; Gina Nigro (Amsterdam)

Tel: 020-794 97 08

Website: <http://www.lalecheleague.nl/Regio-informatie/LLL-in-de-regio.html>

E-mail: lll-amsterdam2@lalecheleague.nl

MEE

MEE offers information, advice and support for anyone with a physical or mental disability, or with a chronic disability. MEE can assist you with the paperwork involved in applying for the PGB. (in Dutch)

Tel: 0900 999 88 88 (local rate)

Website: <http://www.mee.nl/>

Paguro

Offers insightful information on good schools, and easy access to healthcare for children of parents that have relocated for their employment.

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Website: <http://www.paguro.net/expatlife/global/children>

Per Saldo

Provides information and advice on everything to do with personal budgets.

Churchillaan 11
3527 GV
Utrecht

PO Box 19161

3501 DD

Utrecht

Fax: (030) 231 49 75

Website: <http://www.pgb.nl/>

E-mail: info@pgb.nl

Studenten voor PGB

Students association that offers services for children and young people with a disability.

Tel: (068) 168 48 09

Website: <http://www.studentenvoorpgb.nl/> (in Dutch)

Websites on parenting

Parenting in Holland

This resource provides information on pregnancy, birth and parenting.

Website: <http://www.parentinginholland.com>

E-mail: info@parentinginholland.com

Babystartbewijs

Website for English-speaking expatriate parents living in Holland which provides comprehensive information on pregnancy, birth and parenting babies and toddlers.

Website: <http://www.baby.startbewijs.nl>

j/m

J / M for parents offers information on education, school, health, and leisure.

Website: <http://www.jmouders.nl>

Kangertrainingen

The information here provides advice relating to bullying of children.

Website: <http://www.kanjertraining.nl/>

Kinderbijslag

This resource covers information about various child benefits available to parents.

Website: <http://www.kinderbijslag.org/> (in Dutch)

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KopOpOuders

Online support specifically for parents who experience stress, psychological and/or addiction problems.

Website: <http://www.kopopouders.nl/>

Landelijk Informatie Centrum Hoog begaafdheid (National Information Center on Giftedness) - St.Plato Foundation

Information about gifted children.

Website: <http://www.lich.nl/>

Loga (Landelijke Oudervereniging Gezinsproblematiek Adoptie)

The website of the National Parents Association Adoption Family Issues.

Website: <http://www.loga.info/>

NJI—Nederlands Jeugd Instituut (Dutch Youth Institute)

Website: <http://www.nji.nl/>

NVOM— Nederlandse Vereniging voor Ouders van Meerlingen (Dutch Association for Parents of Multiples)

An association for (prospective) multiple birth parents.

Website: <http://www.nvom.nl/>

Ouders Online (Parents Online)

Lots of information for parents and an opportunity to exchange experiences with other parents.

Website: <http://www.ouders.nl/>

Education advice

A focal point for anyone who has questions about education and problems and with children between 0 and 18 years. There are many articles available and a means to ask questions.

Website: <http://www.opvoedadvies.nl/>

E-mail: info@opvoedadvies.nl

Parents for parents

A project designed to help parents motivate their children to talk about responsible drinking.

Website: <http://www.oudersvoorouders.info/>

De Knoop - (The Knot)

A national foundation for parents / carers of children with bonding disorder and/or the so-called 'no-soil syndrome'.

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Website: <http://www.redegeld-e.nl/knoop>

Websites relating to children

Back to basic

A training and experience program in a challenging way for disadvantaged young people way to work on their future.

Website: <http://www.btobasic.nl/>

Brusjes

This is an information resource for brothers and sisters of a family member who is seriously ill or disabled.

Website: <http://www.brusjes.nl/>

Geboortebord

Decorations for celebrations such as: for the birth of a son, daughter or twins, for Sarah or Abraham, for a wedding or marriage, or virtually any other festive event - the right choice for festive decorating your home, office or garden.

Grote Beemd 8

5281 CD

Boxtel

Tel: 06 5598 39 12 of 06 1062 60 29

Website: <http://www.geboortebord.com/>

E-mail: info@geboortebord.com

Home Start

Provides educational support to parents with young children.

Website: <http://www.home-start.nl/>

Huiswerkbegeleiding (Homework)

Website for finding a homework or tutoring institute teacher, and for tutoring or remediation of deficiencies in specific subjects.

Website: <http://www.huiswerkbegeleiding.nl/home/>

Kidslifestyle (magazine)

Art, books and CDs for children from 0 - 6 years old.

Website: <http://www.kidzlifestyle.nl/>

De Kleurenklok (The Color Clock)

A practical tool to help children learn to work independently.

Website: <http://www.kleurenklok.nl/>

Personalized gifts with children's names

Kolding 10

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2993 LN
Barendrecht

Postbus 2004
2990 DA
Barendrecht
Tel: (018) 54 63 46
Fax: (084) 839 91 75
Website: <http://koterkado.nl/>
E-mail: info@koterkado.nl

For kids

The search engine contains more than two thousand links to websites created specifically for children.

Website: <http://www.netwijs.nl/>

Prinsesjes (princesses)

Many links to sites with cool new things to make yourself or gifts for children. Fun facts, tips, remarkable things for girls and mothers

Website: <http://www.prinsesjes.nl/>

Stichting de Ster (Star Camps)

This foundation organizes unique vacations for children aged 8-12 years who need help: children that feel left out, who are insecure, have low assertiveness, or need to learn to be independent of their parents.

Website: <http://www.sterkamp.nl/>

Safety for your child

Tips on safety for children.

Website: <http://www.veiligheidvoorjekind.nl/>

Weerbaar

This is a site where children and their parents can find training in their neighbourhood on self-defence, resilience, and social skills.

Website: <http://www.weerbaar.nu/>

Psychology links

Psychologist Direct

Find a psychologist, psychotherapist or remedial help in your area in the Netherlands.

Website: <http://www.psycholoogdirect.nl/>

NIP (Netherlands Institute of Psychologists)

Website: <http://www.psynip.nl/>

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Counselling

Dream Angus

Support to help resolve children's sleep disorders and sleep difficulties.

Tel: (068) 125 25 04

Website: <http://www.dream-angus.com/>

E-mail: info@Dream-Angus.com

Expat Kids Club

Specialising in providing effective coping strategies for expat kids and teens who may be having a hard time with their day-to-day life as a foreigner here in the Netherlands. Group and individual sessions offered.

Contact Name: Kate Stevenson Berger

Tel: 061 483 27 02

Website: <http://www.expatkids.weebly.com/>

E-mail: expatkidsclub@gmail.com

Passionate Parenting

Exists to bring parents and experts together at monthly parent education seminars and workshops.

Tel: 064 185 77 73

Website: <http://www.passionateparenting.nl/>

E-mail: passionateparenting@gmail.com

Centre for Eating Disorder

A nationally operating and specialized treatment centre for adolescents with eating disorders.

Website: <http://www.accare.eu/>

Behind the Rainbow

A foundation that supports children and young people that have to deal with the death of a loved one within the family. Parents and educators can find information and advice.

Website: <http://www.achterderegenboog.nl/>

Directory of all children's therapists

Website lists addresses of teachers, special educators, child / adolescent psychologists and child therapists.

Website: <http://www.allekindertherapeuten.nl/>

Youth agencies

Site with information and addresses of offices of Youth Agencies to help children become a healthy and balanced adult.

Website: <http://www.bureaujeugdzorg.nl>

Dream support

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Dream Support is committed in various ways to create a positive future for children.

Website: <http://www.dream-support.nl/>

Grip your dip

Grip your dip provides information, tips, experience stories, and e-mail capability with social workers (through the dip deskundige) and group courses through a closed chat system for young people with complaints of depression, worry, sadness, etc.

Website: <http://www.gripopjedip.nl/>

Human concern

An institution that offers help for eating disorder patients.

Website: <http://www.humanconcern.nl/>

Internet assistance

Free site for that offers anonymous help for young people.

Website: <http://www.internethulpverlening.nl/>

Custom youth

An independent solution for problems in youth

Website: <http://www.jeungmaatwerk.nl/>

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ACCESS guides available for downloading, free of charge, from the ACCESS website:

- Banking
- Childcare and playgroups
- Food from home
- Having a baby in the Netherlands
- Health care
- Housing and accommodation
- Inheritance and wills
- International primary and secondary education
- Learning the Dutch language
- Marriage , registered partnership, cohabitation and ending a relationship
- Obtaining a driving license in the Netherlands
- Post Office
- Public Transport
- Social Security
- Starting your own business
- Studying in the Netherlands
- Telephone, internet and television
- What to do when leaving the Netherlands
- Working in the Netherlands

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