

The Talent Group



Exciting news!

Something new is happening in Almere; something special. In collaboration with local primary schools, GO! Kinderopvang is working on an innovative development concept for toddlers – Talent Groups.

Talent Groups are for children between the ages of 2 and 4 in Almere, and are designed to give children a flying start in group 1. To achieve this, we concentrate on developing social and cognitive talents through play.

These Talent Groups will be set up as a pilot project at 2 locations in Almere. Trained staff and childcare experts work together to find effective and practicable ways to enhance children's prospects of successful development. Talent Groups form part of the Pre-School and Early-School Education (PSESE) policy of the municipality of Almere. The ambition is to ensure that all children can develop optimally so that they can move seamlessly on to group 1 without any delay due to inadequate language or other skills.

HOW WILL THIS BE ACHIEVED?

Attending the Talent Group for 16 hours

Talent Group children will attend the pre-school playgroup for 16 hours each week. This will mean that they will attend for 4 half-day sessions in most cases. During these sessions, the children will have the opportunity to learn from one another and from the staff. We ensure optimal quality of both the curriculum and the approach within the group. For instance, we are working with best-in-class professional staff who undergo regular training in the latest developments when it comes to the stimulation of young children.

By collaborating with national experts, we can provide education of the highest quality, and our trained staff members are supported by a professional at higher vocational level on substantive aspects.

What do we expect from the parents?

Every Talent Group will undoubtedly expect the close involvement of parents. After all, children will not only be learning during these 4 half-day sessions; they spend most of their time at home, so good collaboration and attuning their development with parents is crucial to the success of the project. In this respect, we will make arrangements with one another, which we will also register, and compliance with these arrangements will be a condition for attendance at the Talent Group.

SHOULDN'T CHILDREN SIMPLY BE PLAYING?

Will there still be time for play? Of course; our Talent Group children will not be sitting at desks. Toddlers learn by play and extensive play means discovering the world. Within the Talent Groups, the approach to play is such that children learn without even realising it, while listening to a story, doing a role play or playing at the sand table. We even introduce science and technique in a way that toddlers can understand. In this way, their levels of language and thinking develop during play.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Limiting language delays

Because many of our children come from families in which the parents are not native Dutch speakers, they can suffer from a certain amount of language delay in comparison with their Dutch peers. These delays can sometimes be as much as two years. And for children who start group 1 with such a delay that can sometimes mean that they don't catch up for the whole of their extended school life. This is an unacceptable handicap, and precisely what we aim to change by deploying the Talent Groups. The entire curriculum is aimed at combating these language delays, with the objective of preparing children for the transition to group 1 and enhancing their opportunities to enjoy a fruitful school career and better opportunities in the future.

FOR MOTIVATED PARENTS ONLY

Parental commitment is key. Although the Talent Groups are accessible to all toddlers in Almere, participation will be subject to certain conditions and only the children of highly motivated parents will be able to join us. The reason for this is that we can only succeed in progressing the language skills of these children if their parents participate too. That is why we collaborate closely with the parents. Parents must assume their responsibility, both in the Talent Group and the home-situation, for example, by playing inspiring games or engaging in interactive reading at home. These activities will be coordinated by the Talent Group. We will make concrete arrangements for these activities and confront one another if agreements are not met. It is our objective to work every day – alongside parents – on the development of the child.

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Talent Groups are realised in collaboration with local primary schools.