

Activities in the core group

Every day, the children are welcomed, cared for and supervised in their own group space, also known as the core group. Every group has three fixed pedagogical staff members (if in a given group, three staff members are present per day, four fixed staff members will be affiliated with this group). The pedagogical staff members are the fixed point of contact for parents. Every day, at least one of the fixed pedagogical staff members is present in the child's group (this applies to the structural timetable, barring illness, exceptional leave and circumstances beyond one's control).

Subgroups

Within the core group, we often offer the children activities in 'subgroups', this means that the children are divided into small groups according to age, activity or interest, and they play under the supervision of the pedagogical staff member. Subgroups offer tranquillity and overview for the young child, which increases the feeling of safety and concentration and gives more opportunities to play.

Activities outside the core group

Combining groups

Between 7:30 hours and 8:00 hours and between 18:00 hours and 18:30 hours, the parallel groups are combined, and there is one pedagogical staff member in every wing. The children of the youngest groups play in the group of de Duikelaars, while the children of the toddler groups play in the group of de Rakkers.

Playing in the play hall and playing outdoors

Children regularly play with the children of the parallel group in the outdoors playground, under the supervision of the fixed pedagogical staff member of their group. The children from the youngest group play on the patio and the children from the toddler groups play in the toddler playground.

Children also often play with the children of the parallel group in the play hall.

Activities in subgroups can take place outside the core group, in which case the play hall and/or the parallel group are used. Sometimes, a number of children can go and 'visit' another group under the supervision of their fixed pedagogical staff member (for instance a couple of older babies visiting the toddlers). The choice of leaving the core group is always up to the child, and he or she is never forced to do so. The subgroup activities outside the core group generally take place in the morning between 10:00 hours and 11:15 hours or in the afternoon between 15:00 hours and 16:15 hours. The younger babies up to 10 months always stay in their own safe space.

Open doors policy

In addition to working with subgroups, in the toddler groups we occasionally use the method known in childcare as 'open doors policy'. This means playing with the doors between the groups being kept literally open. Children are free to decide whether they want to play in the play hall or in the parallel group. The 'open doors policy' is used consciously and very rarely, i.e. only where the additional value is clear and in order to offer specific activities such as an extended activity trail (often during celebrations). Working with the open doors policy offers more freedom and less structure than working in subgroups and it may sometimes provide children with an additional challenge suitable to their development. When playing with 'the doors open', the play hall and the parallel group are used.