



# Children and youngsters with special-care needs

30/04/2025

## Agenda

1. **The youth departement of the city of Antwerp**
2. **Inclusion**  
**Inclusion of children and young people with special-care needs**
3. **Training programme for associations**
4. **Conclusion**

# 1. The youth departement of the city of Antwerp

## Our mission statement:

- The Antwerp youth department is building a city **for, by and with children and young people**.*
- In Antwerp, **all children and young people** are given **maximum development opportunities and attractive future prospects** for them.*
- They are given the **physical and mental space to be themselves**, to **experiment** and to **grow** in their spare time and in other contexts.*
- ***The voice and interests** of all children and young people **weigh on policy** in the city and the districts.*

# 1. The youth department of the city of Antwerp



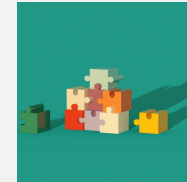
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Professional youth work  
organizations



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Afterschool child care



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6 themes:

**Leisure time**

**Participation**

**Public space**

**Safety**

**Future**

**Inclusion**



## 2. Inclusion



### 3. Inclusion of children and youngster with special-care needs

- Some numbers:
  - 565,707 inhabitants
  - 174,625 < 26yr
  - +- 3,000 children special needs education (limited data!)

- Definition special-care needs

“All children who need support or adjustments to participate in childcare or leisure activities. For example: administering medication, providing infrastructural facilities or providing specific guidance during activities.”





### 3. Inclusion of children and youngster with special-care needs

- Make playgrounds accessible
- Inclusive (visual) communication
- Support youth work organizations
- Accessible participation tools
- We provide training and support.



## 4. Training program for associations

- A basic training (emotional development) ( 3 hours)
- An in-depth session (3 hours)
- Thematical sessions
- Intervision
- On-the-job training



## Testimony

“The intervision moment not only gave me new insights, but also recognition and support from colleagues in the field. The methodology gave me space to think broadly about my case and my strengths were mentioned – something I had not expected myself. The exchange of experiences and concrete tips was enormously valuable.”

*Participant of Gekkoo, traject 2024*

“We are very well supported: quick appointment, practical tips, talking to the supervisors, report with tips....”

*Participant of De Woonboot, traject 2025*

## 5. Conclusions

- You don't have to create new initiatives right away: look at what already exists and how you can improve it.
- Involve all staff: one person can be the leader, but the project should not fall apart if they leave.
- Collaborate with organizations with the right expertise; you don't have to know everything yourself.
- Listen: we often think we know what someone needs, but that is not always correct.



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