



Parenting support as a strategy to meet the needs of every parent

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Parenting support?





Parenting support?

Parenting Support is

- > the easily accessible,
- > basic support
- > to parents and persons with childcare responsibilities
- > in the upbringing of children.

(Flemish Parliament Act of 13 July 2007 on the organisation of parenting support)



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Parenting shop?

- > What is it?
- > Tailor made
- > All parents and educators
- > Children from 0 to 21 years old
- > Special actions for families at risk





Parenting shop?

> INFORMATION

- » provide basic information
- » respond to general parenting queries

> COUNSELING

- » 'conversation' on specific parenting issues
- » ensuring early identification of any uncertainty in issues of parenting
- » refer to another organization if necessary

> INTERACTION

- » encourage interaction, emphasising the need for social networks and making parenting a topic for discussion.
 - » educational or training initiatives
- 



The Flemish policy in parenting support

- > Flemish Parliament Act of 13 July 2007 on the organisation of parenting support
- > Motivation :
 - » Parenting support as a social and governmental responsibility
 - » The right of every parent to get support
- > Objective





The Flemish policy in parenting support

- > Different levels of organisation
 - » Local level :
 - Provision of information about parenting
 - Detection of needs and assembling what fits these parents needs
 - Referring tot services
 - » Parenting shops
- > Different levels of facilitation (with EXPOO)





Points of departure

- > Accessible support, free of charge
- > Demand oriented
- > Tailormade
- > Empowerment
- > Methodically






Types of support

- > Information
- > Instrumental support
- > Emotional support
- > Advice or counseling
- > Competence training
- > Enhancing social contacts and stimulating self-reliance
- > Early detection and referral





Trends

- > All parents have questions, but not all parents want/need the same kind of support
 - > Informal / organised support
 - > Everlasting focus on mothers
 - > Increased attention for the underprivileged and viewing parental support as a tool to combat poverty
 - > Debate about evaluation and evidence-based programmes
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Questions?





Questions?

- > *How do you look at parenting in your country? Is there also a need for parenting support?*
- > *Do you think it is a good thing to have parenting support for all, are should you only intervene when things go wrong? And in times of economic recession?*

