1. About Kind en Gezin

1.1 History
1.2 Mission
1.3 Values
1.4 Organisation
1.5 Policy areas
1.6 Kind en Gezin-Lijn (Contact Centre)
1.7 Complaints Department
1.8 Communication
1.1 History

- 1904: First efforts by volunteers
- 1984: Kind en Gezin (Flemish Community)
- 1987: Kind en Gezin as Flemish public institution (VOI)
- 2006: Kind en Gezin as internally autonomous agency with legal personality (IAAlp) under the authority of the Flemish Minister of Welfare, Public Health and Family
1.2 Mission

Kind en Gezin, together with its partners, aims to create as many opportunities as possible for every child, regardless of where he or she was born or where and how he or she is growing up.
1.3 Values

• At Kind en Gezin, we attach a great deal of importance to the values:
  – Diversity
  – Children’s rights

• Kind en Gezin employees are working on 4 values:
  – Open
  – Positive
  – Passionate
  – Expert
1.4 Organisation
1.5 Policy areas

• Kind en Gezin is responsible for:
  – Preventive family support
  – Child care
  – Adoption
1.6 Kind en Gezin-Lijn (Contact Centre)

- Kind en Gezin-Lijn: 078 150 100 (national rate) every working day between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- All questions about pregnancy, child care, parenting, health, etc.
- Making or changing appointments at infant welfare clinics
1.7 Complaints department

- Giving advice and tips, so you can tackle a problem yourself
- Referring people elsewhere if the complaint falls outside the authority of Kind en Gezin
- Investigating admissible complaints following procedures
- Recommendations to improve the quality of Kind en Gezin’s services
- Contact: 02 533 14 14
1.8 Communication

- Website: www.kindengezin.be
- Leaflets, brochures and posters
- Newsletters
- Reports
- Films
2. Preventive family support

2.1 Teamwork
2.2 Target group
2.3 Core tasks
2.4 Core themes
2.5 How do we do this?
2.6 Pillars of our service
2.7 Partners
2.1 Teamwork

- District centres for 63 district teams:
  - A district team: district nurses, family support workers and a district team manager
  - Supported by provincial parenting support consultant, provincial target groups consultant, infant participation staff, lactation specialist and provincial consulting physicians

- 342 infant welfare clinics:
  - Volunteers
  - District team members
  - Clinic doctor
Regions of Antwerp
Regions of Limburg
Regions of Brabant and Brussels
Regions of West Flanders
2.2 Target group

- Expectant parents
  - With extra attention for vulnerable pregnant women
- Families with children aged 0-3
  - With extra attention for vulnerable families
2.3 Core tasks

- Medical, psychosocial and educational prevention
2.4 Core themes

- Dominant themes in our services from pregnancy to 3 years
  - Healthy eating
  - Daily care and hygiene
  - Good health and full set of vaccinations
  - Safe living and sleeping environment
  - Optimal development
  - Positive parenting
2.5 How do we do this?

**Antenatal services**

- ‘Baby on the way’ info sessions in conjunction with maternity hospitals
- Antenatal support for vulnerable pregnant women:
  - Antenatal clinic
  - Home visits
2.5 How do we do this?

Antenatal services

• Information:
  – Pregnancy folder
  – Pregnancy newsletters
  – Website
  – ...

2.5 How do we do this?

Postnatal services

• Introductory visit:
  – In maternity hospital or at home (e.g. after home birth)
• Home visits
• Hearing test
• Consultation at infant welfare clinic
  – Vaccinations
  – Monitoring of development
  – Discussion of questions
  – Eye test at 12 and 24 months
  – ...
2.6 Pillars of our service

- Free services
- Demand-led tailor-made care
- Participation is voluntary
- Reaches vulnerable groups
- Supports positive adjustment
- Recognises what parents can do
2.7 Partners

- Registered and subsidised by Kind en Gezin:
  - Consultation centres
  - Prenatal support centres
  - Drop-in team
  - Childcare and family support centres
  - Foster care services for family support
  - Parenting shop
  - Maternity care expertise centre
  - Confidential Centres on Child Abuse and Neglect
  - EXPOO
  - Several projects
2.7 Other partners

- Other partners:
  - Maternity hospitals
  - Gynaecologists
  - Independent midwives
  - Maternity and family care services
  - Paediatricians and GPs
  - Centres for General Welfare Work
  - Shelters
  - Centres for Integrated Family Care
  - ...
2.8 Family Centres

• Together we support families:
  – A partnership between several local organisations that are dedicated to (expectant) families with children and young people
  – A diversity of services for parents and children
  – Provision and structure differ by location
  – One-stop shop for parents for any support in the upbringing of their children
3. Child care

3.1 Duties
3.2 Functions of child care
3.3 Child care landscape
3.4 Control and inspections
3.5 Child care provision
3.6 Future: Flemish Parliament Act on Child Care for Babies and Preschool Children
3.1 Duties

Kind en Gezin is responsible for implementing the policy of the Flemish Minister of Welfare, Public Health and Family.

- Promotes and supports child care and monitors its quality
- Does not organise child care itself and so does not employ staff at facilities or child minders
- Grants a supervision certificate or accreditation to child care facilities
- Pays grants to child care facilities
- Divides the budget made available by the Government of Flanders to extend the child care provision
3.2 Functions of child care

- **Economic function**
  - Parents can work and earn an income
  - Child care also provides a lot of jobs

- **Social function**
  - Child care can combat the exclusion of disadvantaged groups (both children and parents) and helps promote their integration
3.2 Functions of child care

- **Pedagogical function**
  - Good child care not only offers young children care and security, it also stimulates their physical and psychological development.
  - Children meet others there and learn to treat each other with respect.
3.3. Child care landscape

- **Child care:** care for children until end of primary school
- **Kind en Gezin** = central director
- **Local authority** = local director
  
  = municipality and OCMW

  Is responsible for local child care policy

- 2 instruments:
  - Local Child Care Policy Plan
  - Local Child Care Consultation

  Municipality can organise its own child care
3.4 Control and inspections

- Kind en Gezin does not carry out any control or inspections!
- Flemish Care Inspectorate inspects facilities and draws up inspection report with recommendations
- Kind en Gezin decides on the basis of inspection report and recommendations from the Flemish Care Inspectorate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFORMAL CHILD CARE</th>
<th>FORMAL CHILD CARE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Au pairs</td>
<td>Registered child care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents and other family members to the 4th degree (nephew/niece)</td>
<td>Services for child minders with the affiliated service organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child minding</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group child care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registered day care centre (or preschool nursery)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Out-of-school child care initiative</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Local neighbourhood child care services</td>
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</tbody>
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**UNREGISTERED CHILD CARE**
Incl. child care in schools

**Kind & Gezin**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accredited child care</th>
<th>Private child care</th>
<th>Only reported child care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Label</strong></td>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Supervision certificate</td>
<td>Reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality</strong></td>
<td>Extensive requirements for staff / quality / infrastructure</td>
<td>Limited quality requirements</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant</strong></td>
<td>Pre-school child care facilities: fully subsidised Out-of-school child care initiatives: subsidised by K&amp;G and others.</td>
<td>Financial support is possible. Government pays difference between income-related contribution and guaranteed day rate.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Price</strong></td>
<td>Related to income</td>
<td>Free / Related to income</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taxation</strong></td>
<td>Tax certificates (deduction of child care expenses)</td>
<td>Tax certificates (deduction of child care expenses)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.5 Child care provision: special child care

• **Possibly extended provision:**
  - Inclusive child care (children with specific care needs)
  - Flexible child care (morning child care, evening child care, weekend child care, ...)
  - Urgent or occasional child care...
3.6 Future: Flemish Parliament Act on Child Care for Babies and Preschool Children

- Sufficient, high-quality child care
- Accessible to all
- Affordable for parents
- Financially feasible for child care sector
3.6 Future: Flemish Parliament Act on Child Care for Babies and Preschool Children

- Licence is compulsory from now on
- More straightforward care provision
  - Group child care
  - Child minding
  - Child care at home
- New phased subsidy system
  - Accessible, unambiguous and linked to duties to be performed
- Attention to quality
- Local Child Care Centre in each municipality
- Kinderopvangzoeker (search tool for childcare)
4. Het Vlaams Centrum voor Adoptie (The Flemish Centre for Adoption)

4.1 VCA
4.2 Legislation
4.3 Domestic adoption
4.4 Intercountry adoption
4.1 The Flemish Centre for Adoption (VCA)

- Supervises all adoptions of minors, both domestic and intercountry adoptions
4.2 Legislation

- **The Hague Convention (1993) and Belgian legislation**

2 most important principles:

- ‘adoptability’ or suitability for adoption (free and fully informed consent)
- subsidiarity (adoption is the last resort)
4.3 Domestic adoption

- Child resident in Belgium adopted by parents resident in Belgium

- **Unknown child (via adoption agency):**
  - Information session and preparation for parents as required
  - Social enquiry into prospective adoptive parents – guidance and support for birth parents – placement of child and after-care through adoption agency
  - Adoption order pronounced in court
4.3 Domestic adoption

- Known child (stepparent, co-mother, foster child, etc.):
  - Applications through VCA
  - Preparation by E.V.A.Vorming vzw
  - Preparation and proceedings before the juvenile court
  - Adoption order with social enquiry if required
4.4 Intercountry adoption

- Child resident abroad is adopted by parents resident in Belgium
4.4 **Intercountry adoption**

- **Procedure:**
  1. Info session (Adoption Support Centre) or individual meeting with VCA (intra-family adoption)
  2. Preparation (Adoption Support Centre) after management of inflow
  3. Social enquiry (3 accredited services)
  4. Suitability ruling by juvenile court
  5. Mediation by adoption service (3 accredited services) or private adoption (through VCA)
  6. Accreditation by Federal Central Authority
  7. After-care (adoption services, Adoption Support Centre, meeting groups)