

Interview with Hilde Proost (teacher in third grade)

How many of the children in your class speak other languages at home?

5 out of the 19 children.

Can children choose which language they speak on the playground?

No, in our school they have to speak Dutch on the playground. We chose this so the children could learn Dutch faster.

Which measures does your school take for foreign-language children?

Our school has a different class for those children where they can learn Dutch. This is a class where all of the foreign children are in (not divided by age).

When those children come to our school we first look at their age and then we give them test to see what level they are on for the other domains. Then we give them a language test, where we'll see how good they know Dutch. With the results of those tests we'll divide them in different grades.

We also make sure the parents are comfortable with our school, so we give them an introduction and a tour in our school. They can also visit the classroom if they want.



We also have a special teacher for foreign language children and a care teacher for children who have troubles with some domains.

How do you, as a teacher, make sure that all children are involved in the class?

We give the children adjusted subject material to learn. Example: For orthography lessons, children who are having difficulties with writing have to merely copy the words. We try to let them involve as much as they can in the classroom, but when it's really not possible, we take them alone and help them with our care teacher.

How does the school make sure all children feel comfortable?

Our school makes sure they feel comfortable by giving the adjusted subject material. We have a couple of care teachers who can help children with difficulties.

Does the school have different materials to accompany the children?

Yes we do. Our school has different classrooms where we can work alone with the children. We use different computers and we work with different themes: feet, head, hands, ... Sometimes we also work with interpreters.

Do you know any other inclusion problems at school? And how do you handle them?

We have a problem with religion in our school. When we go to church, all children have to go (also the children with another religion). They have to do this because we are a catholic school. But they don't have to pray in church, they just have to be there.

