

# *Language is the future*



Early childhood education (2-4 years)  
Toddler version





**In the Netherlands, we want to give every child every opportunity to thrive. And language plays a key role in that. Learning a language well helps with playing, learning, sports... in fact, it helps with everything.**

Children between the ages of 2 and 4 can get help learning Dutch at the childcare centre, to ensure they get off to a good start at primary school. This help is called early childhood education (2-4 years) (voorschoolse educatie in Dutch).



## Your child can participate too!

### How does it work?

If your child is at risk of developing a language deficiency, you will have received a recommendation from the child healthcare centre for your child to participate in early childhood education. Your child will then receive extra assistance at the childcare centre. Your child will attend the childcare centre four times a week for four hours. So 16 hours per week. There, they will play and learn Dutch at the same time, using special books, games and programmes.

When your child turns 4, they will start school. In cooperation with you, the childcare centre makes sure that the school knows exactly what your child has learned so far. The primary school then ensures a seamless continuation of the programme.

### How much does it cost?

You pay a parental contribution, based on an hourly rate. In 2023, the contribution for most parents is €0.36 per hour. Parents who earn a lot pay a bit more. Your childcare centre can provide you with more information.



### Where can my child go?

In the municipality of Oss, many crèches and childcare centres offer early childhood education. You can find more information on the municipality's website: [oss.nl/VVE](http://oss.nl/VVE).

### Can I do anything to help?

Yes. In fact, it's encouraged! Your help is very important. If parents participate, things progress much smoother. Your child will learn faster and more if you talk to and sing and read with them regularly. The childcare centre can help you with that. There are books you can read and fun language games you can play at home.

Even if you usually talk to your child a lot in another language, this will really help them, too. A leaflet with information on multilingualism is also available. There are also opportunities available for you to improve your own Dutch language skills.

### Useful addresses

- **The library:** free for children up to 18 years. Here you can borrow books and games. There are also other activities, such as storytime and toddler hour. [www.nobb.nl/home/oss/](http://www.nobb.nl/home/oss/)
- **Boekstart:** for babies up to 1 year old. An introduction to stories and songs. [www.nobb.nl/educatie/boekstart-vroegscholen](http://www.nobb.nl/educatie/boekstart-vroegscholen)
- **LeesExpeditie:** A volunteer visits your home once a week to read with your child. [www.ons-welzijn.nl/Items/nl-NL/Evenementen/Activiteit/leesexpeditie-oss](http://www.ons-welzijn.nl/Items/nl-NL/Evenementen/Activiteit/leesexpeditie-oss)
- **Het Taalhuis:** For parents who want to practice Dutch. [www.nobb.nl/educatie/taalhuis-oss](http://www.nobb.nl/educatie/taalhuis-oss)
- **Multilingualism leaflet:** information for parents [www.oss.nl/vve](http://www.oss.nl/vve)
- **Language is important leaflet** [www.oss.nl/vve](http://www.oss.nl/vve)

## Questions?

For more information, visit: [oss.nl/VVE](https://oss.nl/VVE). Or ask your contact person at the childcare centre or the child healthcare centre. Still have questions?

Call the municipality on telephone number **14 0412**

