

A close-up photograph of a family. A woman with dark hair is smiling and looking down at a book. A man with a beard is also smiling and looking at the book. Two young children, a boy and a girl, are looking at the book. The girl is in the foreground, looking intently at the pages. The boy is to her left, also looking at the book. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

Language is the future

Early childhood education (4-6 years)
Primary school 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 helps with playing, learning, sports... in fact, it helps with everything.

Children between the ages of 4 and 6 can get help learning Dutch at school. This prevents them from falling behind, which makes learning difficult. This help is called early childhood education (4-6 years) (vroegschoolse 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. Make sure you mention this when registering your child for primary school. When your child turns 4 years old, it is important that you register them at a primary school that offers early childhood education. At these schools, children receive good and expert guidance and learn Dutch while playing. In years 1 and 2, they use special games, books and programmes.

The primary school works in tandem with the childcare centre. 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?

Early childhood education at a primary school is free.



Where can my child go?

There are several primary schools in the municipality of Oss that offer early childhood education. Visit www.oss.nl/vve for an overview.

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 school can help you with that. Fun activities are also organised at school, which you can take part in. For example the games hour, where you can play educational games with your child. You can also borrow books to read and language games to play at home.

Even if you usually talk to your child a lot in a language other than Dutch, this will really help them too. They will learn words and expressions. A leaflet 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
- **LeesExpeditie:** A volunteer visits your home once a week to read with your child. www.ons-welzijn.nl/Items/nl-NL/Evenementen/Activiteit/leesexpedition-oss
- **Het Taalhuis:** For parents who want to practice Dutch. www.nobb.nl/educatie/taalhuis-oss
- **Multilingualism leaflet:** information for parents www.oss.nl/vve
- **Language is important leaflet** www.oss.nl/vve

Questions?

For more information, visit: oss.nl/VVE.

Still have questions? Ask your child's teacher at school.

Or call the municipality on telephone number **14 0412**

