

Contacts	Title: KAAP program of the city of Antwerp CATEGORIES / TAGS (key words) Primary target group: #policy makers, # parents Country: # Belgium Tags: #Language courses, # parental involvement, # migrant education		Further information
Contact person's contact details Gerrit Bernaerts Gerrit.bernaerts@stad.antwerpen.be onderwijsbeleid@stad.antwerpen.be 	Abstract Short introduction to raise attention	<p>The Flemish community and the city of Antwerp organize courses Dutch for new citizens. But many people find barriers to participate in these courses: it's a difficult combination with the children, the lessons are in the evening or in another city district. KAAP is a project for parents to learn Dutch in the school of their children. But knowing Dutch is not enough for parents to be a partner in the triangle school – child – parent. Therefore the KAAP-project also is about linking language training with parental involvement.</p> <p>This parental involvement is crucial for reducing early school leaving. Parents are shown the benefits of education and will therefore motivate their children to remain at school and get their degrees.</p>	Links related to the example: Onderwijsantwerpen https://vimeo.com/32843318 http://www.onderwijsantwerpen.be/sites/default/files/docs/Reglement%20Kaap%20voor%20secundaire%20scholen%202016-2017.pdf Links within the ESL+ platform:



Keywords: *Language courses, parental involvement, new citizens*

**Introduction
- context**

More than 180 nationalities live in Antwerp. The mother tongue for more than 50 % of the children in Antwerp schools is not Dutch. Many newcomers are obliged to learn Dutch but are put on a waiting list.

Knowing the language is a major success factor for new citizens. Therefore, the city of Antwerp has initiated the KAAP program: an embedded language course on the communication between parents and schools. The program is developed by The Centre for Language and Education (university of Leuven). It is introduced in 5 Flemish cities. The City of Antwerp has taken ownership of the program and introduced it in their city.

The KAAP programs has two goals:

- First, the parents learn to communicate directly with the school community and about relevant things concerning the school career of their children in order to improve

		<p>communication between parents and school in the long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second, KAAP leads to (more) parental involvement by allowing the parents to get to know the school better. This involvement is also beneficial to the learners. Parents learn about the benefits of education and are more likely to support their children to get their degrees, <p><u>Keywords: integration, migrant education, parental involvement</u></p>	
	<p>WHY – causes behind the challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the main characteristics, outlines of the challenge <p>The program tries to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tackle the problem of low-educated parents to get involved in the school of their children - organise Dutch classes on the school of their children for migrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was involved in the challenge? Please describe the target group <p>A KAAP-course is organized in the school and during school time. The target group are parents with a migrant background with no or limited knowledge of Dutch with children in the school. KAAP courses can be organized in elementary schools (2,5 – 12 years old children). In 2012-2013 the city organized two KAAP courses in the first grade of a secondary school</p> <p>KAAP is a network with seven partners. The partners and their main tasks are described.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General education policy Antwerp: - Coordination - Organisation - Financing 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for language & education: - Methodology - Support of language teachers - Evaluation • Centre for adult education (CBE & CVO): - Language teachers • House of the Dutch language: - Screening of the parents • School bridge: - Childcare - Publicity - Bridge between parents and school - Bridge between language teachers and school - Screening of the schools • Schools: - Promoting KAAP - Teacher who is bridge between KAAP and the school • Parents - Being engaged to the school <p><u>Keywords: low parental involvement, little knowledge of the languages</u></p>	
	<p>WHAT – measures taken</p>	<p>The KAAP program is offered by the city of Antwerp and run by the individual schools. If a school wants to offer the KAAP courses to the parents of their learners, the following timeframe applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January: schools apply for the KAAP program - March/April: screening of the candidate schools - May: selection of the KAAP schools - September: screening of the parents - October: start of KAAP lessons (2 X 3 hours/ week during the school year) - March: meeting with KAAP schools: how to work with parents when KAAP finished <p><u>Key words: timeframe, steps</u></p>	

	<p>Impact of the measures taken</p>	<p>KAAP offers an answer to problems of parents: learning about school and learning Dutch in a 'safe' environment. This project can be transferred to other municipalities.</p> <p>Last year, researchers at the University of Leuven investigated if KAAP reach these goals from the point of view of the parents. In interviews with 70 parents who attended KAAP we asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if they communicate more and better with the school community in comparison with the period before the course • if the involvement between the school and the parents has been influenced by the course. <p>Conclusions: KAAP has impact on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving information, paying attention to the school agenda and helping the child at home; • contacts with teachers, parent contact and written communication with the school. <p>Parents emphasize KAAP made the difference. However, KAAP only makes a little difference on parental involvement on school level: participation in school activities and school policy.</p> <p><u>Keywords: evaluation</u></p>	
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