



#### **Typical playground in Flanders**

Foto : springzaad.be

# We need more of this



Foto: Willy Leufgen

#### Benefits for children

#### and teachers

- Children with ADHD can concentrate better if they are active in nature.
- Children with a view of and contact with nature score higher on tests of concentration and self-discipline. The greener the environment, the better the scores.
- Exposure to natural environments improves the intellectual development of children by improving their awareness, reasoning and perception.
- Early experiences with nature stimulate the development of imagination and feelings of wonder. Wondering is an important motivation for lifelong learning.
- A natural environment stimulates the interaction between children and they have more positive feelings about each other. The impact of tensions in the lives of children is reduced and they can cope better with adversity.



#### Benefits for children

#### and teachers

- Playing in nature is important for the development of independence in children.
- Their play is more diverse, more imaginative and creative, which encourages their language and skills to work together.
- Children who regularly play in a natural environment have better motor skills (coordination, balance and agility) and they are less often ill.
- Bullying behavior reduces or even disappears completely.
- Nature helps children develop perception and creativity and gives them a sense of calm.
- Calmer in the classroom after playing time
- Opportunities for nature education
- Observe, discover patterns, sharper sensory skills



#### **Benefits for school**

- Strengthen cooperation in the team
- Widen the social network of the school
- Parent involvement
- Neighborhood associations
- Optimize space
- Opportunities for experiential education and anchoring of nature and environmental education in the pedagogical project
- Profiling as a green, sustainable and healthy school



#### **Environmental benefits**

- Increasing biodiversity
- CO2 reduction
  - 229g / year / m<sup>2</sup> grass
  - 24kg / year / adult tree
- Better air quality
- Shadow and cooling
- Tempering heat island effect
- Favorable effect on water management



#### Movement



#### Creativity and fantasy



#### Solution-oriented thinking



#### Social skills



#### Social skills / Wondering



#### Motoric development



#### **Experimental learning**



#### **Discover nature**



#### Explore and shift boundaries



#### Civic sense and commitment







# What does a school need to get started?













#### Enthusiasm





#### Workgroup



2/2









## Klimaatgezonde speelplaatsen

### **Climate Healthy Playgrounds**





Oost-Vlaanderen

www.oost-vlaanderen.be/klimaatgezondespeelplaatsen

#### Climate Healthy Playgrounds

- The Province of East Flanders and MOS guide schools in a 2-year trajectory to a green, adventurous, educational and climatefriendly playground in 20 steps
- For each of the 20 steps we offer support in 3 different ways:
  - inspirational documents,
  - tailor-made guidance
  - workshops



#### From this ...

III A SHE

TITLINE

No. of Concession, name

COLUMN N

Foto : springzaad.be



Foto: springzaad.be



#### In 20 steps





#### The first 10 steps

- 1. Register as a MOS school
- 2. Get informed and inspired
  - 1. Part 1: 50 shades of green
  - 2. Part 2: inspiring field visit
- 3. Assemble a workgroup
- 4. Why do we do it? Develop a vision
- 5. Involve the entire school team
- 6. Communicate the vision
- 7. Identify possible helping hands
- 8. Participation of pupils
- 9. Parent participation
- 10. Broad communication on the project



#### The next 20 steps

11. Link to the educational program 12. Create draft plan Part 1: bringing together ideas Part 2: testing the practice on the ground 13. Planning of execution of the project Part 1: phasing and planning work Part 2: organization workdays 14. Financial plan 15. Addressing partners 16. Implementation phase 17. Opening ceremony 18. Evaluation 19. Maintenance 20. Educational use of the playground











[visualisatie "speelfort" sint-jozef kinderopvang | wetteren]



#### The next 20 steps

11. Link to the educational program
12. Create draft plan

Part 1: bringing together ideas
Part 2: testing the practice on the ground

13. Planning of execution of the project

Part 1: phasing and planning work
Part 2: organization workdays

14. Financial plan

15. Addressing partners
16. Implementation phase
17. Opening ceremony

- 18. Evaluation
- 19. Maintenance
- 20. Educational use of the playground



## Support



### Inspirational documents and cases for DIY'ers



Zoek gerechten, mode enzovoort.



Kleuters verven letters op bevrorer bankies met warm water en een kwast, kleuteridee.nl



Binnenblijven bij regenweer? De oplossing is een 'bottenrek'





bijenhotel (3) 2 (4) 1 zijaanzicht vooraanzicht 90 x 90 x 2000 140 × 40 × 650 140 × 40 × 800 Voor meer informatie zie de IVN website 140 x 40 x 620 www.ivn-geysteren-venray.nl 760 x 400 x 18 wg ndige multiplex Deze regenton spaart veel water en neemt weinig plaats in (Prins Dries, Antwerpen) 'Rivier' op schoolspeelplaats in Berlijn, bij warm weer gaat de regenwaterpomp aan!





Pomp met houten speelgoot op een speelplaats in Berlijn



### Tailor-made guidance

- Dienst NME Oost-Vlaanderen

   Tom Gorré
- MOSbegeleiders
  - Sandra Vandevelde
  - Wouter De Tandt
  - Mike Stoens
- Support by experts



## Support by experts

- Fris in 't landschap
- Peter Vosters
- Katrijn Gijsel
- Annelies Sevenant
- Mier vzw
- Goodplanet
- VCOV
- Springzaad
- Gie Deboutte
- Voedselbos
- Regionaal Landschap Meetjesland
- Regionaal Landschap Vlaamse Ardennen

- Regionaal Landschap Schelde-Durme
- De Helix
- Nicky Borremans
- Groep Intro
- Pro Natura
- Kind en Samenleving
- David Crabbé
- Velt
- Diëgo Van De Keere
- MOSbegeleiders
- ..



### Workshops

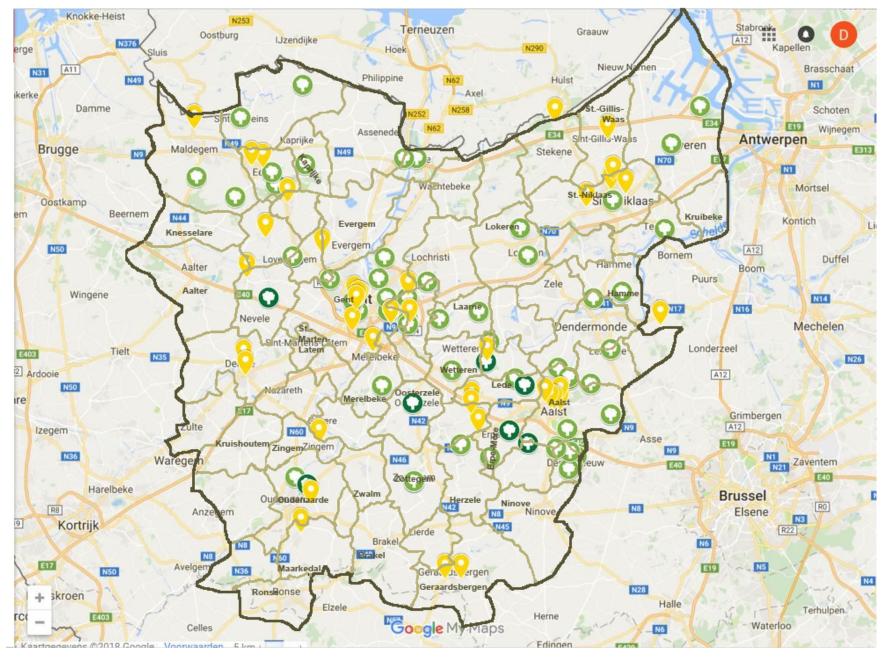
- 50 shades of green
- Playground vision
- Participation and support of the team
- Draft plan
- Risk analysis
- Educational use of the outdoor space
- Vegetable garden, square meter garden, permaculture
- Willow constructions
- Wickerwork
- Insect hotel / beast tower
- Outdoor kitchen
- Waterland
- Waterwall
- Barefoot path

- Well-being and health
- Animals at school
- Make your playground accessible to everyone
- Open your playground for the neighborhood
- Play and climbing trees
- Creative with tiles / debris / mosaic
- Edible plants and fruit
- Green walls
- Fire
- Compost
- Senses ...



## Workshops







### Collaboration with municipalities

- Collaboration with local councils that want to make use of adventurous, green and climatehealthy playgrounds at all schools on their territory
  - Aalst
  - Denderleeuw
  - Destelbergen
  - Beveren
  - Sint-Niklaas

- ...



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# Klimaatgezonde speelplaatsen

## **Climate Healthy Playgrounds**





Oost-Vlaanderen

www.oost-vlaanderen.be/klimaatgezondespeelplaatsen

### **Gras Project**

- GRAS = Green Adventurous Playground
- For schools in Ghent
- A GRAS school looks different every time but there is always:
  - variation in height (high and low)
  - variation in play zones (quiet versus intensive)
  - variation in substrates (hardened versus unhardened)
  - planting for a green look and biodiversity



## **Gras Project**

- A GRAS challenges children to exercise more, offers more variation in play and appeals to a wider group of children.
- It ensures that every child can find a place, even the more quiet children.
- There is more to experience on a GRAS. This means less boredom, aggressive behavior and less bullying behavior.
- A GRAS offers many opportunities for education.



#### Basiselementen: variatie in beplanting (De Oogappel)









#### Basiselementen: variatie in ondergronden (De Regenboog)









#### Basiselementen: variatie in reliëf (SJC Visitatie)







(12 Cost-Vlaanderen

## Gras Project support includes

- an inspiring presentation of the GRAS project (about one and a half hour, target group: management, teachers and other team members, and parent groups)
- learning path counseling in different phases: forming a vision, organizing participation, drawing up a draftplan, ....
- info point for all questions
- possibility to apply for a subsidy amount of 3000 euros



