



# Growing up together starts with playing together

Summary of the 2025 annual report

# Foreword

As a society, we unintentionally exclude children with disabilities. For example, more than one in three children with a disability never go to a playground in their neighbourhood. And if they do, more than a quarter often play there alone. This is evident from our research in 2025. And even when other children play sports or go to school, they are often alone at home. Or they go to a separate sports club or school far from home.

With our projects, we are committed to a society in which children with disabilities can and do participate. A few examples from this year: Together with the Atletiekunie, we made it possible for children with disabilities to play sports at the athletics club in the area. In 'Samen naar School' classes, they are taught within a regular neighbourhood school. And we celebrated our 75th anniversary with the 'Samenspeeldagen' in the Efteling: a party full of encounters between children with and without disabilities.



I thank all donors, volunteers, participants in the Mega Wandel Marathon, charity lotteries, companies, funds and others who make this possible. Thanks to your support, children with and without disabilities can grow up together!

**Rebecca Gerritse**  
Managing Director  
Stichting het  
Gehandicapte Kind

# 2025 in brief

**15,100 children** with disabilities played, engaged in sports or learnt together with peers without disabilities. They experienced, sometimes for the first time in their lives, that they completely belong! With our partners, we have realized **55,300** of these **'together experiences'** this year.

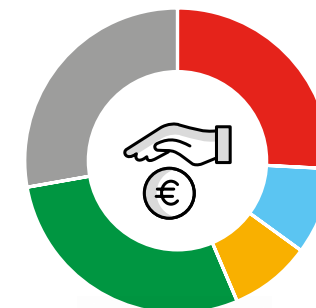
## Where does the money come from?

● Private donations	€ 2,824,000
● Inheritances	€ 663,000
● Collection	€ 1,132,000
● Mega Wandel Marathon	€ 272,000
● Companies	€ 52,000
● Grants	€ 883,000
● Charity lotteries	€ 1,280,000
● Funds	€ 733,000



## How is the money spent?

● Playing Together	€ 1,466,000
● Exercising together	€ 532,000
● Learning Together	€ 483,000
● Experiencing & Growing Up Together	€ 1,618,000
● Information	€ 1,575,000



## Want to know more?

For the full annual report, visit [www.gehandicaptekind.nl/over-ons/publicaties](http://www.gehandicaptekind.nl/over-ons/publicaties)

# Playing together

Many children with disabilities play alone every day, because they don't feel welcome, or because playgrounds are not easily accessible. With your support, we remove those barriers. We make playgrounds accessible and we organize play activities for children with and without disabilities. And above all, we encourage an inclusive play culture in which everyone participates.

Thanks to you,  
**16,000**  
children can play together



# Speeltuimbende

Our 'Speeltuimbende' is a club of cool children with and without disabilities and their parents. They are taking action for accessible playgrounds and an inclusive play climate - an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome.

In 2025, the Speeltuimbende organized 12 Samenspeeldagen. Because of our anniversary, they were extra festive

this year, taking place in the Efteling. We also support the 'Klauterkooi' 49 times for children with and without disabilities. Thanks to the small groups, the well-organized environment and a lot of personal contact, this temporary play setup is a perfect place for the whole family.



*Once a month, the Klauterkooi is organized in Gouda, where everyone is welcome, with or without disabilities. Mees loves it! Where at first he walked carefully through the gym holding my hand, he now walks towards 'big boys' by himself. They adapt super sweetly and play football with Mees for a long time. This gives him so much self-confidence!*

**Femke**  
Mother of Mees



## Research: More than 1 in 3 children with disabilities never visit a neighbourhood playground

More than one in three children with a disability never visit a playground in their neighbourhood, according to our research. Of the children who do, more than a quarter often play alone. It also appears that 72% of children without disabilities never meet up with a child with a disability, while almost half (45%) would like to.

These play contacts are not only fun, but they are also essential for the development of every child. By playing together, children with disabilities experience that they belong. Children without disabilities learn that you can play together despite differences. That's why we remain committed to truly inclusive playgrounds.

The results are worrying because the playground should be the place in the neighbourhood where children meet and have fun together.

For more research results, see the [infographic](#) and the [research report](#).





Together with the Atletiekunie, we ensure that children with disabilities can participate in sports at the athletics club in the area.

## Playing sports together

Sport is not only essential for physical development, but also for social development. At the sports club, children make friends, and experience that they belong. Unfortunately, many children with disabilities do not play sports at the club in their neighbourhood. For example, it could be because the trainers are uncertain about how to deal with a disability, or because the child does not feel welcome. With your contribution, we help sports clubs to welcome children with disabilities. For example, in athletics, skating, football and dancing!

Thanks to you, more than **12,800 children** can play sports together

## Breakdance

Who wouldn't want to learn to break? In our project 'Samen Dansen', children with and without disabilities receive breakdancing lessons together. They learn the basic moves of breaking, but also other hip-hop techniques such as popping and locking. That way, there is a technique for every child to express themselves through dance. And thanks to an extra teacher, there is more individual attention in this course. After a successful pilot in 2024, children can now take the course at seven dance schools across the Netherlands.



*Pleun has a progressive disease. She went blind when she was just six; She has no idea what dancing is. But breakdance turned out to be a suitable dance style. On the Samen Dansen course she beamed so much, she loved it! The children without disabilities were very welcoming, taking her by the hand. It's so nice to see how that goes without prompting.*

**Evelien**  
Mother of Pleun





Thanks to your support, **14,000 children** can learn together.

## Learning together

Imagine: while the neighbourhood children run exuberantly into the schoolyard in the morning, you get into a van, going to a school far away. That is the practice for many children with disabilities. They go to a special school and as a result hardly meet peers in their neighbourhood. We must not allow that to happen. That is why we help to set up 'Samen naar School' classes. We also bring students from special and regular education into contact with each other.



## 'Samen naar School' classes

In a 'Samen naar School' class, children with disabilities receive tailor-made education and care in their own classroom within a regular school. Where possible, they connect with the activities of the regular classes. We help initiators to set up, lead and professionalize 'Samen naar School' classes. We have seen great success: there are already 65 of these classes, mainly in primary education but also in secondary and vocational education! Here, children with disabilities can attend school together with their neighbours.



*Children in a 'Samen naar School' class are part of the school, they belong. The children themselves don't think it's crazy; The obstacles are often in the adults, who have learned to think in systems. But if you start doing it, it turns out that it is possible.*

**Marlies Peters**  
Project leader, Steunpunt Passend Onderwijs at the PO-raad

# Living & Growing Up Together

Some initiatives ensure that children with and without disabilities grow up together, and are broader than playing, learning or engaging in sports. Think of the first inclusive generation that we realize in the municipality of Deventer, or the Changing Places Toilets, which make it possible for families with a growing (often severely) disabled child to experience a day out together.

Thanks to your support, **12,500 children** can experience together



# Changing Places Toilets

Many children with severe disabilities need to be changed lying down, even as they grow up. Sanitary facilities are not designed for this. A day out with the family is often unfeasible. That is why we support top cultural locations to build Changing Places Toilets. These are welcoming and safe toilets, where lying down is possible and changing is comfortable. In 2025, we made six new Changing Places Toilets possible, including in the Efteling and the Oorlogsmuseum Overloon. In this way, we make a difference for many families who can go out together as a result.



*The Oorlogsmuseum Overloon is opening a new educational wing, which includes a fully accessible Changing Places Toilet.*

*My sister Rosanne is a bit like a baby in an adult body. It is a huge challenge to change her when we are out and about, often on the ground or in our wheelchair bus. That doesn't feel dignified. That's why I hope there will be many Changing Places Toilets in the Netherlands, so that everyone can enjoy a day out.*

**Lisa van Doorn**



# Thanks to our friends

We are able to do our work for children with disabilities thanks to the many people and organizations that support us. Nearly 36,000 people do so in 2025 with a donation, including many loyal donors who give by direct debit; they form the backbone of our work. We also celebrate the people who organize a fundraising campaign, help as a (collection) volunteer, play for us in the charity lotteries, run the Mega Wandel Marathon or include us in their will. And then there are the companies, ministries, funds and other organizations that support us. Thank you very much!



# Children's ambassadors

Who better to articulate the importance of our work than children with disabilities themselves? That is the task of our children's ambassadors. This year we said goodbye to Art, Feline, Thomas and Vesper – thanks for their great efforts! We elected four new children's ambassadors: Kick, Kirsty, Turan and Yunqi. They immediately made themselves heard, including interviews on television and conversations with politicians in the House of Representatives.



*Our new children's ambassadors Yunqi, Turan, Kick and Kirsty.*

## 75 years Whoever has a birthday, treats

In 2025, Stichting het Gehandicapte Kind celebrates its 75th anniversary. We celebrate this entirely in line with our mission: with a party for children with and without disabilities. Or rather: 12 parties! With our Playground Gang we organized 12 Samenspeeldagen in the Efteling. We invited hundreds of children with disabilities, who in turn brought five friends or neighbours. In this way, 1,200 children enjoyed an enchanting day out together. Many friendships were perpetuated and new contacts were made during those days – and that's exactly what we do it for!





## Colofon

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