



Together against exclusion

Summary annual report 2023



Stichting het
Gehandicapte
Kind

Preface

Children with disabilities are five times more likely to be excluded than children without disabilities. This is not just about being bullied or not being allowed to participate. Exclusion is also when a school is inaccessible or won't accept you. Or if the playground where your neighbours play is not suitable for you. Children with disabilities also often encounter all of these. That is serious because being excluded can have major consequences for your development and self-confidence. We, therefore, make exclusion a spearhead. We do this mainly by creating 'together experiences': opportunities for children with and without disabilities to play, play sports or learn together. For example, with our 'Samen naar School' classes where children with disabilities receive lessons and care is provided within an ordinary school. And with the project 'Samen Schaatsen', where children with and without disabilities enjoy the ice fun together: cold but heartwarming. Equally heartwarming is the support we receive to make all this possible: from donors, volunteers and many others. For this, I thank you deeply.



Henk-Willem Laan
Managing director
Stichting het Gehandicapte Kind

2023 in brief

7,500 children with disabilities play, engage in sports or learn with peers without disabilities. They sometimes experience for the first time that they belong! Together with our partners, we realised **43,410** of these '**together experiences**' this year.

Where does the money come from?

Private donations	€ 2,561,000
Legacies	€ 2,204,000
Collection	€ 1,091,000
Mega Wandel Marathon	€ 147,000
Companies	€ 104,000
Grants	€ 463,000
Charity lotteries	€ 1,042,000
Service clubs and funds	€ 791,000



How did we spend the money?

Playing together	€ 1,773,000
Exercising together	€ 758,000
Learning Together	€ 431,000
Information/imaging	€ 1,851,000
Other projects*	€ 733,000



Want to know more?

For the full annual report, please visit

www.gehandicaptekind.nl/over-ons/publicaties

* In addition to projects that focus on playing, engaging in sports and learning together, we support projects that ensure that children with disabilities can participate in different ways. Some examples are the first Changing Places Toilet in the Netherlands and the interactive performance Avonturia.

Playing Together

Playfully, children lay the foundation for living together. Yet many children play with a disability alone each day because playgrounds are not accessible or because they are being stared at or bullied. With your support, we make playgrounds accessible and organise joint activities. We are working towards a culture in which everyone participates and belongs so that no child feels left out.

Thanks
to you,
11.000
children
can play
together

“Ira can get into the swing himself for the first time”

Ira (7) often sat crying on the side of the playground around the corner. Because he is in a wheelchair, he couldn't participate, says his mother Marlinde, even though he wanted to, so badly. “I tried to put him on something, but he couldn't do anything. He sat there on the sidelines, watching other children play and having fun. That's when your mother's heart breaks. He cried in frustration, and so did I. I started avoiding this playground; it was too painful.”

After consultation with the municipality, the playground has been finally made accessible. “There is now a wheelchair swing, a merry-go-round for a wheelchair and a ping-pong table. Sand is replaced by paved paths, and thresholds have been removed. Ira is so happy! He may be able to experience life for the first time in the swing, without our help. That does so much for his self-confidence. He can join in!”

[Read Ira's full story »](#)



Sports Together

Many children with disabilities cannot go to the regular sports club nearby. Often, they go to separate G-clubs. This means that they will continue to have to travel further, often don't meet their neighbours while exercising, and therefore make fewer friends in the neighbourhood. With your contribution, we help sports clubs welcome children with disabilities. We introduce inclusive sports and make facilities accessible so that children with disabilities can also participate.

Thanks
to you,
8,300
children can
play sports
together



“Through skating, Hidde belongs”



Because of his disability, Hidde (12) finds playing with other children difficult. But during ‘Samen Schaatsen’, he belongs, says mother Mariëtte. “Participation is valuable for every child. And for children without disabilities, it is important for them to meet children with disabilities. For children, it is right to support each other, so let's give them that opportunity.” Sitting on the skate frame, Hidde sways across the ice. “He likes it very much. He joins his little group, and they do exercises like slalom, tag, or under arm gates while skating together.” And the other children? Those find it the most natural thing in the world. “They immediately try to make contact with Hidde. They don't hesitate to ask or question anything, everything comes very naturally. The fact that he has a frame is completely irrelevant to them.”

[Read Hidde's full story »](#)



“Thanks to ‘Samen naar School’, Tobias now has friends”

Tobias (9) is a cheerful, bright little guy. However, because of his autism and developmental delay, his parents could not find a school for him. They homeschooled him for over a year, says his mother Esther. But in doing so, they felt they were selling Tobias short. “I will never forget how Tobias reacted when we walked past a schoolyard full of happily playing children. He stopped, looked and pointed. If he could talk, he would have asked, ‘Mum, why can’t I join in?’”

A ‘Samen naar School’ class offered a solution. Now, Esther takes her son to school by bike every morning. “As soon as we get there, Tobias runs into the schoolyard. Often, children from the regular classes give him a high five. He also likes to play football with the children from group 8. Fantastic, he thinks so, with a smile from ear to ear. I see my son grow then. He belongs.”

[Read Tobias’ whole story »](#)

Learning Together

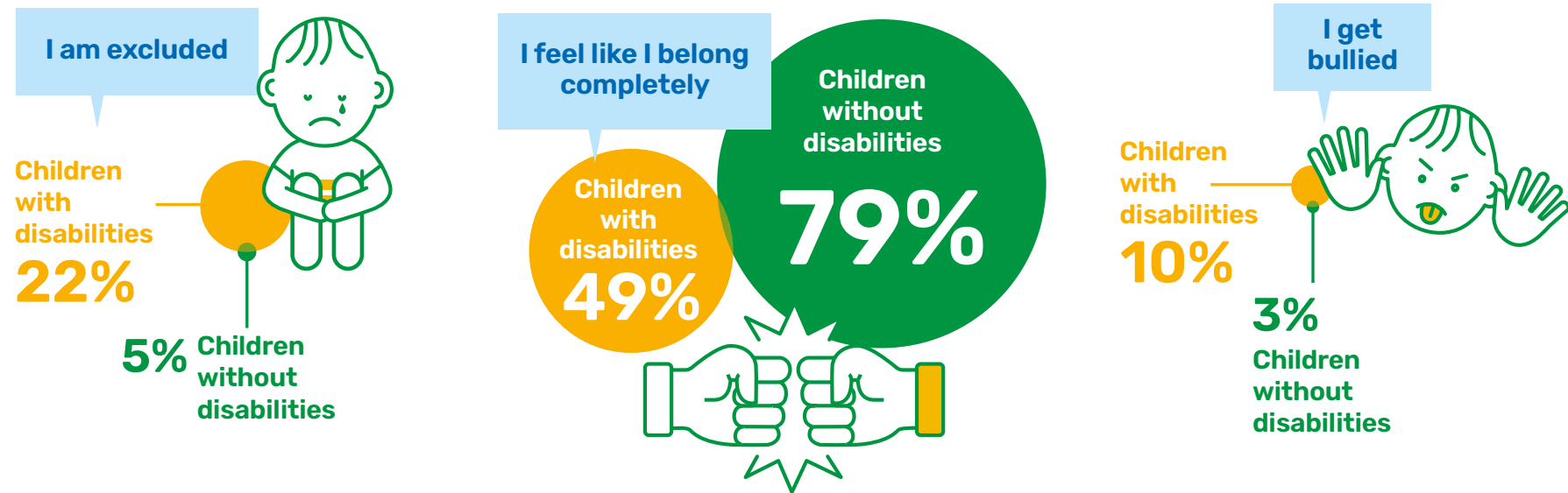
At school, you get to know other children and make friends. But many children with disabilities go to a specialised school far from home and hardly meet any peers from their neighbourhood. Or they don’t even go to school at all. We cannot let that happen. That is why we help ‘Samen naar School’ classes establish and support schools in connecting children with and without disabilities with each other.

Thanks to you,
11,110 children
can learn together



Survey: Children with disabilities 5 times more likely to be excluded

Statements were presented on exclusion and bullying. The percentages mentioned are of the children who answered with '(very) often' and 'always'.



Children with disabilities are five times more likely to be excluded than children without disabilities. This is according to our annual survey (conducted by research agency Kien) among children with and without disabilities aged 6 to 18. For example, 22% of children with a disability say they are (very) often or always excluded. Among children without disabilities, the figure is 5%. And 4 out of 5 children with disabilities say they are sometimes excluded at all. This is worrying: being excluded from an early age has a lifelong effect on self-confidence, among other things. It is, therefore, essential that children with disabilities are able to participate more in society and that they are placed higher on the social agenda. For all research results, see the [infographic](#) and [research report](#).

If you feel you do not belong and are excluded, you cannot develop fully. Exclusion in childhood makes you more likely to have low self-confidence and low self-esteem, even in adulthood.

Steven Pont
Developmental psychologist
and systems therapist



Thanks to our friends

Thanks to the many people and organisations that support us, we can continue to do our work for children with disabilities. In 2023, almost 35,000 individuals, including many loyal enabling donors, supported us with a gift. This is fantastic. Partly thanks to donations such as these, we know approximately what income we can count on. We also rejoice in the many people who organise fundraising activities, help out as (collection) volunteers, play for us in the charity lotteries, participate in the 'Mega Wandel Marathon' or include us in their wills. Then, there are the companies, ministries, funds, service clubs, and other organisations that support us. Thank you very much!

Week of the Disabled Child



In the Week of the Disabled Child (13-18 November), we draw attention to the exclusion of children with disabilities. Through a petition campaign, we call on the new government to stop exclusion; it has been signed more than 12,000 times. Many media pay attention to the issue. Among others, RTL Nieuws, AD, Hart van Nederland, and LINDA published reports on the exclusion of children with disabilities.

Children with disabilities are five times more likely to be excluded.

Children's Ambassadors

There are no better ambassadors for our work than the children we do it for! In 2023, we elected four new child ambassadors: Art (11), Feline (13), Vesper (11) and Thomas (10). They know from their own experience how bad it is when disabled children are excluded. That is why they regularly tell their stories in the media.





Colophon

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