



Inspectorate of Education
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Final report of the survey of

The Quality of childcare in the Caribbean Netherlands - a summary 2021 and 2022

A leaflet for owners, management and professionals in childcare on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba





About the investigation

The report describes the outcomes of childcare quality in the Caribbean Netherlands. This is the first measurement of quality by the Inspectorate of Education at all 68 locations for day care, out-of-school care and host parents on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Such a measurement is called a 'zero measurement'. The surveys were conducted together with local inspectors on the islands.

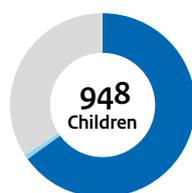
Data per island:

Number of locations

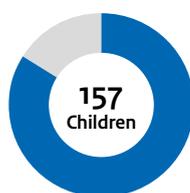
	Bonaire	St. Eustatius	Saba
Day care	24	5	1
Out-of-school care	30	3	1
Host parent	4	-	-
Total	58	8	2

Of nearly 4,000 children aged 0-12 years, 59% use childcare.

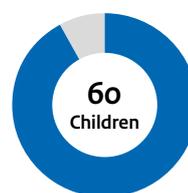
- Day care
- Host parent care
- Out-of-school care
- Nu use



Bonaire

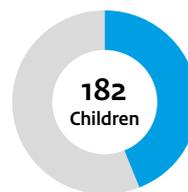
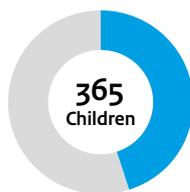
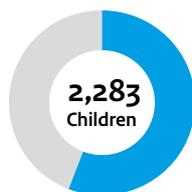


St. Eustatius



Saba

Number of children on the islands who use a form of childcare. Age 0-4



Number of children on the islands who use a form of childcare. Age 4-12

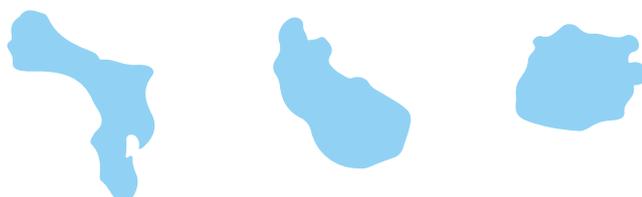
This was investigated:

- Does the childcare center meet administrative, staffing and accommodation requirements;
- Are children adequately stimulated in their development;
- Is it safe and healthy for children and;
- Does the childcare management steer towards improving quality.

Conclusion of the investigation:

The quality of childcare in the Caribbean Netherlands needs to be improved to meet the requirements of the island regulations and the future legal requirements in the BES Childcare Act. Most locations are at the beginning of a process to improve quality step by step.

The Inspectorate of Education sees passion and commitment among owners, management and professionals to improve the quality of childcare. How can you contribute to the improvement? On the next page, you can see what elements were assessed as satisfactory at the majority of locations and what often still need attention. We encourage you to work together to further improve quality!





What is going well?

- Many professionals are currently attending MBO/CVQ training. This is a positive development, which benefits the quality of childcare.
- The centers usually manage to provide stable group leaders, but finding and retaining sufficient staff is a challenge.
- We see that at a majority of the locations, children receive healthy food on a daily basis.
- At almost all locations, we are positive about the pedagogical behaviour of professionals.
- Contacts with parents are frequent.
- We see a great willingness among owners, management and professionals to contribute to further quality improvement.



What can be improved?

- At many locations there is too little space for children to play and exercise.
- Too many locations lack (actual) Certificates of Good Conduct (VOG). This needs to be improved quickly.
- There should also be an adult at every location who can provide first aid to children, currently many locations do not have annual first aid training.
- Many sites do not yet have a safety and health policy in place.
- The educational behaviour of group leaders also require improvement. Targeted stimulation of children's development is still too limited.
- Providing children with a program in the various areas of development and monitoring their development requires improvement.
- Handover of information about a child from childcare to school is often lacking.
- The pedagogical policy plan is missing at many locations.
- Childcare management could focus more on improving the quality of childcare.

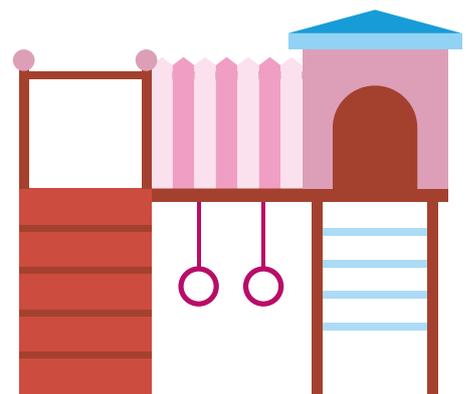
★ Tips!

- Continue to do what is already working and what has already been implemented at your location to improve childcare quality. Be proud about it!
- Every location has received two reports containing the outcomes of the inspections. Get to work on the outcomes and make sure your location is going to meet the set requirements.
- Ask for support if needed.
- Learn from each other and be prepared to share your own good examples.
- Also for the very young (0-2 years), ensure variety in the offer (sleeping, eating and drinking, playing and developing) and suitable spaces for this purpose.



What should be improved?

- Ensure that VOGs, training on child First Aid and the four-eye principle are in place quickly to reduce risks regarding children's health and safety.





The next steps

Each location will receive at least two visits in 2023.

1. An inspection by the local inspectorate.

This inspection focuses on the (1) operation, administration, staff and accommodation, (2) health and safety. This inspection takes place unannounced.



2. An investigation by the Inspectorate of Education.

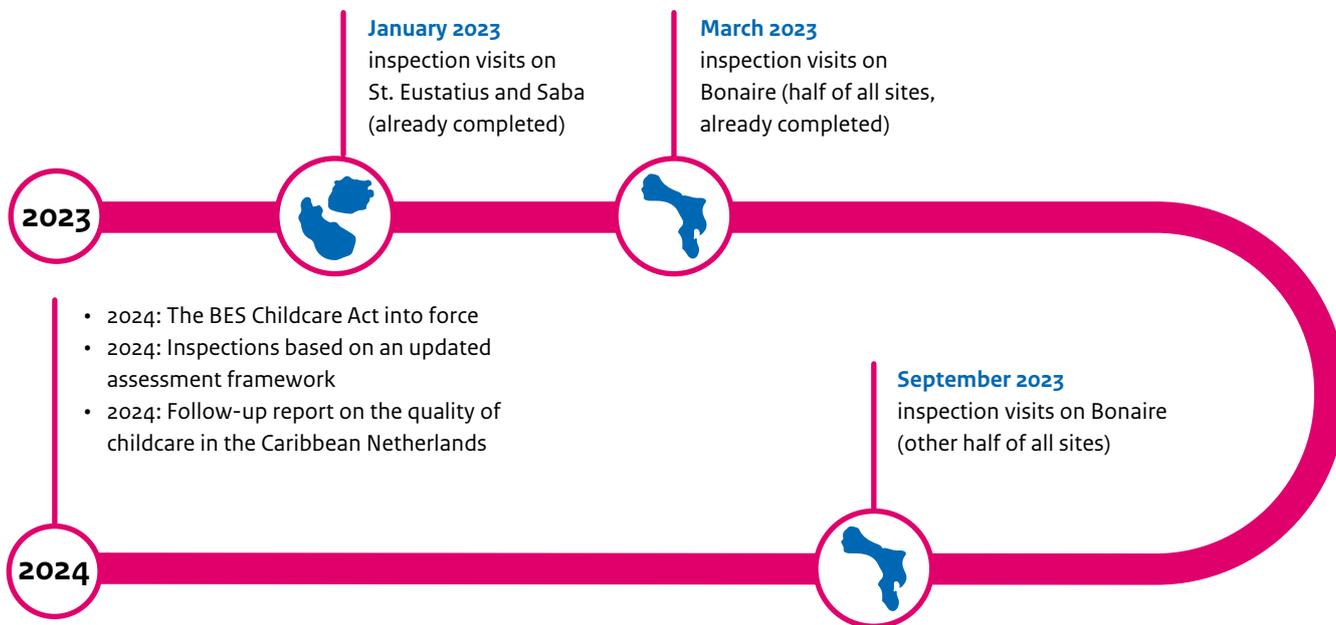
Here, the inspector examines, among other things, (1) the childcare process, including the supply, care for children, the quality of pedagogical and educational actions and cooperation, and (2) the way in which efforts are made to improve the quality of childcare. This visit is pre-announced per location.

Both inspections together provide a complete picture of childcare quality per location. At locations where we made remedial agreements during the zero measurement, we examine more often whether the identified areas for improvement have been addressed within the agreed deadlines.

Below you can see the follow-up to the investigation in an overview

In 2023: supervision of the quality of childcare in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba

- unannounced and remedial inspections by the local inspectorate
- announced investigations by the Inspectorate of Education



Colophon

A copy of this publication is downloadable from the website of The Dutch Inspectorate of Education.

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Inspectorate of Education

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