

## Practical examples



Joyce is a single mother with two boys aged 4 and 7 years. She raises her boys alone, which is difficult. An older couple, whose children have left home for a long time now, regularly takes care of the boys on weekends. They do fun things that Joyce does not have the time for. The boys fully enjoy their new grandfather and grandmother and Joyce enjoys the peace and the cheerful stories with which they come home.

Abel is a widower. He has two older sons and a 9-year-old daughter with Down's syndrome. He wishes for his daughter to have a somewhat broader perspective, and a place to safely gain new experiences. A support family with four daughters applies. Iris comes to play with this family every Tuesday afternoon. The youngest daughter of the support family takes care of Iris and thinks it's fantastic to be the 'older sister'.

Mimi and Amir fled from Syria with their three children. They are happy with a safe life in the Netherlands but are also homesick. They are busy integrating and learning the language. The children have no contact with Dutch families, while according to school this would be better for their language development. Two of the children now go to a support family with children of the same age every week and the families occasionally eat together. A special friendship has developed between the families.



[www.buurtgezinnen.nl](http://www.buurtgezinnen.nl)

**We raise children together!**



### What does Buurtgezinnen.nl do?

Buurtgezinnen.nl is a new initiative based on an old idea: we raise children together. Families who are struggling (request families) are linked to a warm and stable family in the neighbourhood (support families). In this way children get some extra love and attention and parents are relieved for a while. It's everyday support on an equivalent basis.



Request and support families make agreements with the coordinator of Buurtgezinnen.nl about the support, such as for example:

- taking care of a toddler one (half) day a week
- bring a toddler to swimming lessons or sports
- have a baby stay for a weekend
- offer a quiet homework place to an adolescent
- go to parents' evenings at school
- help with celebrating the birthday of children
- do something fun together with the children

### Who can register as a request family?

Sometimes family life is a struggle. Problems can accumulate. Something only needs to happen, or balance is lost. You are no longer able to devote enough time and attention to your children, although you heartily grant them that. You can no longer do it alone. But not everyone has people around them who can offer help. Buurtgezinnen.nl is especially for these families.



### Register as a request family?

Register via [www.buurtgezinnen.nl](http://www.buurtgezinnen.nl). The coordinator of Buurtgezinnen.nl will contact you to discuss what Buurtgezinnen.nl can mean for your family.

### Support families wanted!

As a support family, you become the support around the children for a longer period. During a meeting with the coordinator of Buurtgezinnen.nl you discuss together which support you would like to offer, which children fit in your family (age, boy/ girl) and how much time you have available for it. The coordinator looks at which families fit together best, makes the match and supervises both families for a maximum of two years.

The bond that develops between families differs per match; from close friendship to just pleasant contact. Many of our support families experience being a support family as meaningful and an enrichment of their lives.

### Who can become a support family?

Buurtgezinnen.nl is looking for parents with children, grandparents and couples without children but with parenting experience, who

- want to mean something on a voluntary basis for another family that is struggling
- enjoy meeting different cultures and lifestyles
- have an open attitude and can postpone their judgment
- have at least one (part of the) day per week available
- be able to submit a VOG (Certificate of Good Behaviour) (Buurtgezinnen.nl arranges this)

### Register as a support family?

This is possible via [www.buurtgezinnen.nl](http://www.buurtgezinnen.nl). The coordinator of Buurtgezinnen.nl will contact you to meet and get acquainted with your family.

