

VERTALING ENGELS



The “Centrum voor Leerlingenbegeleiding” (CLB) - the Pupil Guidance Centre - in 7 questions

1 What is a CLB? The CLB is the Pupil Guidance Centre. Every school in Flanders works with such a centre. A team of doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists and pedagogues works in each CLB. Together with the school, the team ensures that your child can develop his/her knowledge, talents and competencies as much as possible.

2 Am I also welcome at the CLB? Of course you are. The parents and teachers, as well as the children or teenagers themselves, can go there directly for information, help and guidance. Some CLBs work with an intercultural official, who eases the way for people from other cultures.

3 With what kinds of problems can I go to the CLB?

- If your child has reading, writing, learning or studying difficulties;
- If you have questions about the choice of courses, study options, certificates and diplomas;
- If your child does not feel comfortable at school: stress, fear of failing, bullying, violent behaviour, skipping school;
- If your child might have health problems: vaccinations, growth problems, drug use, obesity, etc.

4 How does the CLB work? If you have questions or problems, it is better to talk about it with the school first. In most cases, the teacher, the “zorgleraar” (remediation teacher) or headmaster/mistress can help you. But sometimes a visit to the CLB is necessary. The CLB advisor examines your question and looks for a solution together with you. Sometimes, the CLB will have your child go through additional testing. Or it can happen that the problems are so extensive that more specialised help is needed. For this reason, the CLB works in close cooperation with all kinds of services and experts: centres for the treatment of learning problems, mental health services, rehabilitation centres, etc.

5 Does my child have to go to the CLB’s medical examination? Yes, every child in Flanders has to go to the CLB for a medical examination in the second year of kindergarden, in the fifth year of primary school and in the third year of secondary school. It is mandatory.

The CLB doctor tests the eyes and ears, and measures and weighs your child. S/he also looks at your child’s teeth and posture, and determines whether s/he is developing normally. In this way, the doctor can quickly detect illnesses in the early stages and prevent them from worsening. If the school doctor sees a problem or suspects one, you are advised, for example, to have a more specialised examination carried out at a specialist. The doctor also monitors your child’s vaccinations.

If you do not want the CLB doctor to examine your child, you can also have the medical examination done by your general practitioner. S/he will then carries out the same tests and send the results to the CLB doctor.

6 Do I have to pay for the CLB’s services? No, the support and guidance of your child by the CLB is free of charge.

7 Where do I find a CLB?

- The CLB advisor’s contact details will certainly be available in the school brochure.
- The CLB officials often also have office hours at the school.
- Go to your CLB centre. It is open every school day. CLB officials are also available on certain days during the school holidays.

This text is a short summary of the brochure “Het CLB in 15 vragen” (“The CLB in 15 questions”). The brochure is written in simple Dutch. Maybe you could try to read the text in Dutch with the help of this short translation. Upbringing and education don’t only take place at school. Would you like to learn Dutch? Find a place to do so in your neighbourhood at www.huizenvanhetnederlands.be or ask at your child’s school.