

10 December 2013

# Framework Sexuality and Policy – The flag system “Nothing/ Something wrong?”

*A Conference to advance in the prevention of child sexual abuse  
(Madrid, 10-11 December 2013)*

# Overview

1. Context
2. Problems of child abuse: facts – contexts – risks
3. Cross-sectoral approach
4. Good practices
5. To conclude

# Context

- 1992: entry into force of CRC in BE
- 1996: great child abuse case 'D'
- 1997: fundamental reforms in Flanders: Children's Rights Commissioner/ Child Impact report/ Governmental policy
- Succeeding policy plans with attention to violence against children and child abuse
- Cooperation between federal & regional level
- General expertise of Sensoa, the Flemish expertise centre for sexual health
- Youth organizations with specific expertise on youth and sexuality

# Recent problems of child abuse

- Cases of sexual abuse connected to the Catholic Church
- Concluding observations CRC
- Study on violence that children experience in daily life (home, at school and in their free time) carried out by the Flemish Children's Rights Commissioner
- Study "Sexpert" about the sexual health of the population in Flanders
- Facts on child abuse

# Facts – contexts – risks

- 1/5 girls and 1/10 boys confronted with SAB (Sexual abusive behavior)
- 1/10 girls rape or attemptation to rape
- 1/3 is more than once
- Contexts:
  - 33% at school,
  - 10% in sport organizations,
  - 7% in the family and
  - 3% in youth organizations

Risks: background, attitudes, social context.

The Protective factor is a good relationship with parents

# Cross-sectoral approach

- Answer of Flemish government (sept 2011):
  - Not the problem of one sector
  - Cross-sectoral: day care, youth help, schools, sport and youth work
  - Cooperation with federal (Justice & police)
  - Declarations of engagements minister/ sector
  - Training
  - Contact point to report cases of violence (tel. 1712)

# Good practices

- Declaration
- Framework Sexuality and Policy
- Flag system “Nothing/ Something wrong?”
- Flag Game Oké ?!

# Declaration

- Between minister and resp. sector (day care, youth help, schools, sport and youth work)
- Flemish Parliament, Febr. 2012
- 38 Youth organizations
- Engagement to protect the sexual and bodily integrity of children from a positive view on sexuality and relations
- Development of specific instruments for the resp. sectors
- Financial support
- Annual follow-up





# Framework Sexuality & policy

Quality, prevention and reaction  
in your organization

February 2012



# Framework Sexuality & policy

- Developed and adapted with for each sector
- Protection and promotion of sexual and bodily integrity of children and young people
- A working and holistic policy in organizations
  - through a correction proces of the existing situation
  - with the help of concrete materials

# Policy as a tree



- Leafs and fruit: the results
- branches: the interventions
- Trunck: shared vision
- Roots: the fundamental principles





Roots

## Fundamental principles

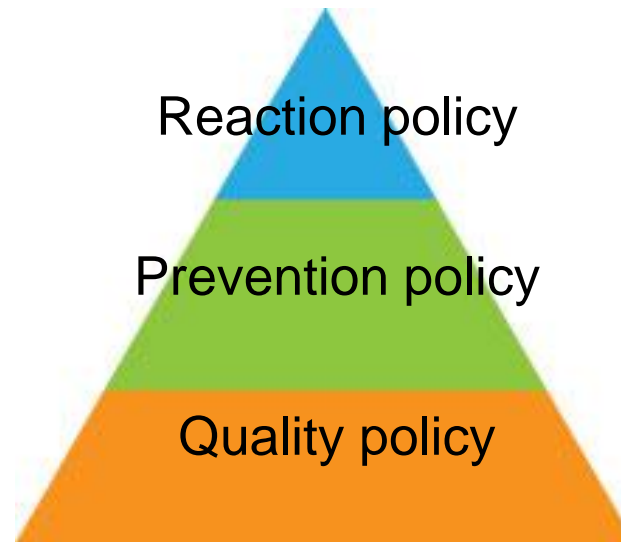
- Development
- Ethical principles
- Rights
- Legal principles
- Sexual health
- Trauma
- Quality of life

# The trunk

- A shared vision
  - Policy triangle
  - ...

# Policy triangle

A policy on three levels:





# Branches

- Policy matrix
- Instruments

# Policy matrix: domains & levels

	quality	prevention	reaction
Care & education			
House rules & Accommodation			
Professional competencies			
Communication			



# Policy instruments

1. Guidelines: how can your organization work on this?
2. A quick scan: topic list that give you a view of the actual situation.
3. Contact point Integrity
4. Statements on sexual integrity (developing a vision)
5. A policy matrix with suggestions for possible interventions
6. Competency checklist for professionals
7. Checklist house rules
8. Code of conduct
9. **Flag system**
10. Protocol
11. Adresses

Flag system “(N)iets mis mee?!”= “Nothing/  
Something wrong?!”



# “Nothing/ Something wrong?!”

- Adaptation of the Flag system of Sensoa for youth organizations
- Practical instrument on sexual colored situations
- 36 situationcards with drawings, a classification, suggestions for reaction and links to organization policy
- Training of the trainers by Sensoa so that training can be given by youth organizations themselves (Jong & Van Zin)

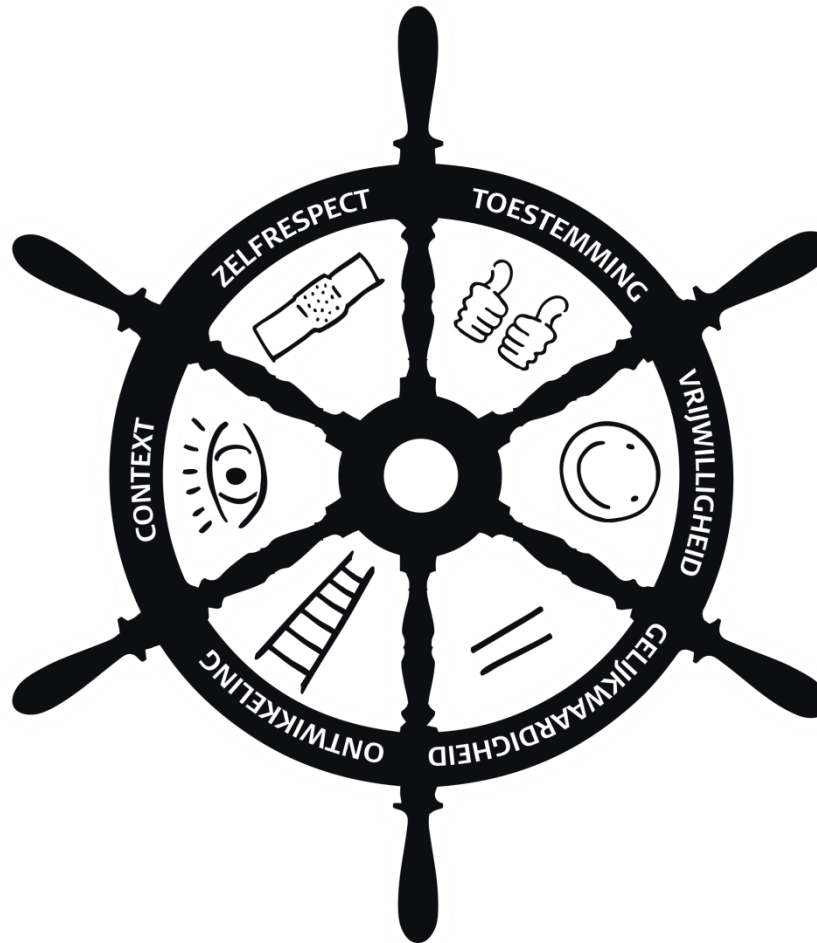
# Purpose Flag system

- Sexual behavior of children: judging correctly
  - › Objective and neutral
  - › Criteria and arguments
- Stimulating communication
  - › Nuance and normalising
  - › Shared language
- Pedagogical reaction
  - › Instruments and methods
  - › Examples

## 6 criteria

1. Mutual consent: we both want it
2. Voluntarily: no coercion or pressure
3. Equality: equal in development
4. Age and development normative list
5. Context: not disturbing to others
6. Self-respect: not self-harming

# Steering wheel



# How to judge?

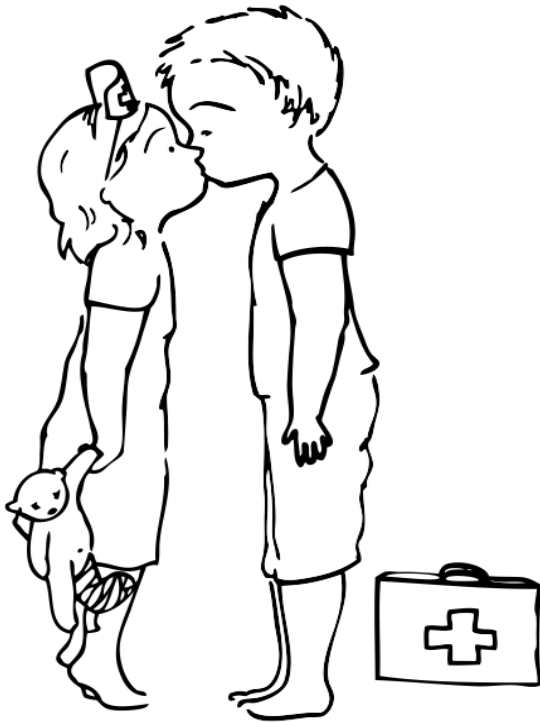
- **Green** flag: acceptable and positive sexual behavior (age- and developmentally appropriate)
- **Yellow** flag: occasional light SAB (mildly unacceptable)
- **Red** flag: troubling SAB (seriously unacceptable)
- **Black** flag: severe SAB (severely unacceptable)

# Reactions

- Always start with telling what you hear, see.
- Get a good picture: ask open questions.
- Always explain
- Reaction
  - Green: accept, explain or ignore
  - Yellow: accept, limit, explain, give alternatives
  - Red: accept, forbid, explain, control
  - Black: forbid, explain and prevent in the future (take measures)



# Oké or not?

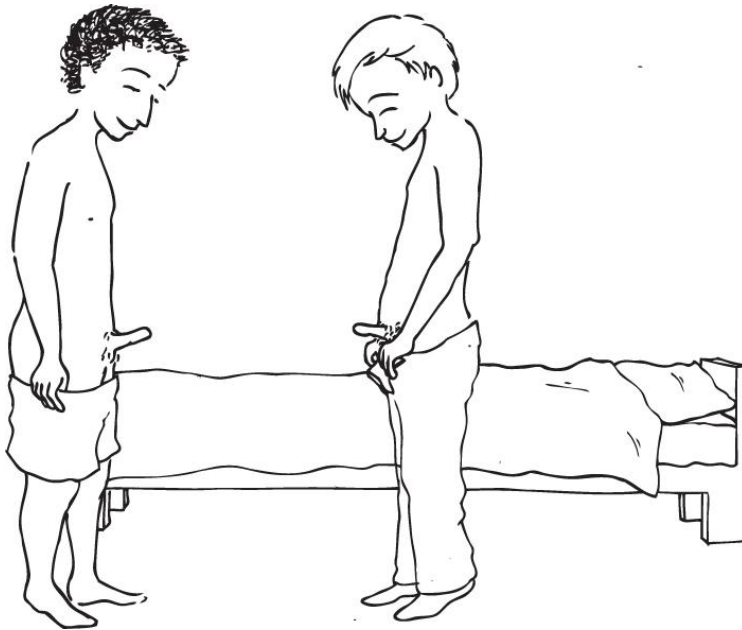


- A girl of 4 gives her brother of 5 a kiss on the mouth.
- Green

# Oké or not?

- Two boys of 14 have a sleepover. They show their erections.

Green



## Oke or not?

- Two girls of 13 are sitting in the bedroom. They caress each other between the legs, and they like it.
- Green



# Oke or not?



- A boy of 10 pressures a girl of 10 to give him a blow job.
- Red

# Oke or not?

- A group of 17 year old boys masturbate together. They have fun.
- Green (if voluntary)



# Oke or not?



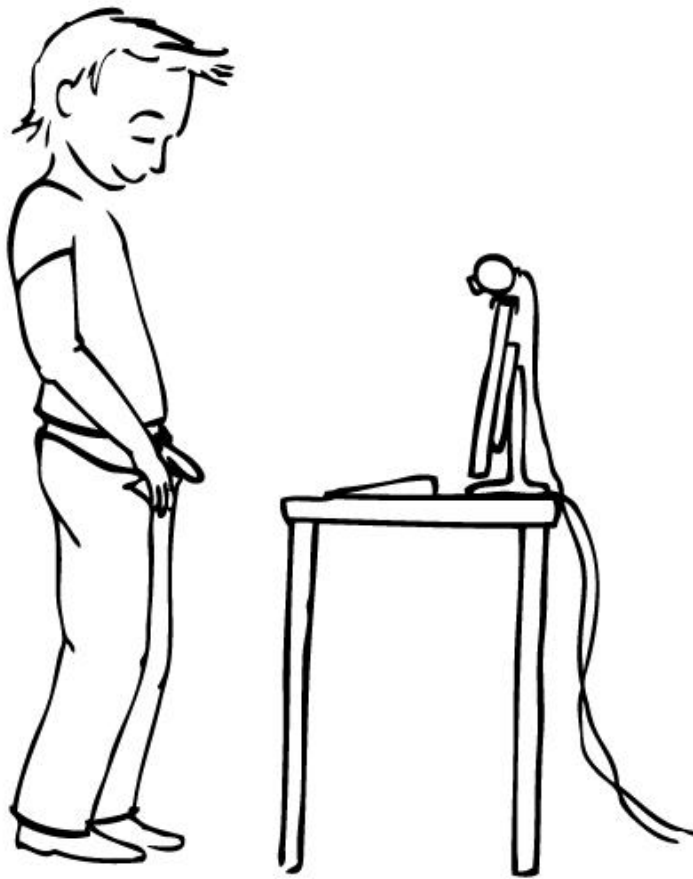
- A teacher bends over a pupil of 15 years old
- Yellow

# Oke or not?

- A mother washes the private parts of her 12 year old son, because she wants him to be sane.
- Red



# Oké or not?



- A boy of 15 shows his penis in front of the webcam.
- Yellow (peers)/ red



# Oké?!



11 EEN MEISJE VAN 15 JAAR MASTURBEERT IN BAD.



- + Adolescents 12 -16
- + 30 drawings
- + Cards: did you know, support, acceptable or not



## To conclude

- Get sexuality out of the taboo sphere
- Have a positive view on sexual and bodily integrity of children, sexuality and relations
- Let's talk about sex (Salt-N-Pepa)!
- 
- Questions?

THANK YOU!

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