



CHILDCARE WITH A PARENTAL ASSISTANT



This guide is aimed at parents looking for a childcare solution, as well as professionals in contact with parents looking for a childcare solution.

Its aim is to clarify the specific nature of childcare with a parental assistant and the legal framework of this service.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION WITH A PARENTAL ASSISTANT: A WELL-CONSIDERED APPROACH TO CHILDCARE FOR A QUALITY SERVICE

Like all other childcare facilities, parental assistants are part of the non-formal education sector. They implement the educational objectives and principles of the national reference framework for non-formal education.

The parental assistant is a trained **professional** who provides **quality** childcare services. The services offered are **well-considered and planned**. This quality is maintained for as long as the parental assistant exercises their profession, particularly through continuous **training** among other things. The childcare takes place at the home of the parental assistant, **in a small group**, in a **family-like atmosphere**. This family atmosphere encourages children's participation in the daily life of the care environment as well as in certain decisions that concern them (menus, materials provided, activities, etc.).

The family-like atmosphere encourages the children to **participate** in **day-to-day life** at the parental assistant's home, and in certain **decisions** concerning them (meals, supplies, activities, ...).

This promotes the children's **autonomy**, the development of their skills and their self-confidence, which is essential to building their **identity** and **sense of self**.



Hosting a **small number of children** allows the parental assistant to get to know **the rhythm and needs** of each child, and to meet individual needs appropriately.

A smaller group also allows children to ease into the **socialisation** process through their **interaction** with others. They can experience values such **as respect, tolerance, and acceptance of others**.

The children have one single contact person, the parental assistant, with whom they develop a **stable and lasting bond**, which provides the **emotional security** they need to **explore and learn**.

Parents also benefit from having just one contact person. It helps to build a **solid partnership** based on trust and respect for each person's point of view, and also enables **educational continuity** for the child.



It is an **inclusive** approach, where every child and every family is welcome, regardless of their particular circumstances. This encourages children **to open up** to others.

The parental assistant provides a **stimulating space** that allows the children to explore, move around and engage in autonomous activities, taking their interests and needs into consideration and without differentiating between boys and girls.

The parental assistant will offer a **familiarisation phase** to allow for a gentle separation of child and parents on the one hand and the creation of new bonds on the other.

As parental assistants work alone at home, the agency Dageseltern organises **networking activities** with other childcare professionals. The aim is to **exchange practices** with a concern for constant **improvement**.

The agency Dageseltern is also a place of educational, social and administrative resources.



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

A parental assistant is a **professional** who provides regular and paid care to children aged 0 to 12 or still attending elementary school or special education.

Childcare is provided during the **day and/or at night**, according to a schedule based on the parents' needs and the parental assistant's availability.

Parental assistants provide **home-based** childcare in compliance with the legal framework, specifically regarding hygiene and safety standards as well as the size and design of the premisses. As the private living space also serves as a childcare space, it is thoughtfully arranged to make it supportive to children's learning.

Parental assistants work on a **self-employed basis**.

Parental assistants must first be granted an **accreditation** issued by the **relevant ministry**, which will determine the childcare capacity, with a **maximum of 5 children hosted** at once in addition to the parental assistant's own children.

Within this limit, parental assistants may not take in more than **2 children under the age of 2, their own children included**.

The accreditation must be renewed at least every 5 years.



In order to be eligible for **invoicing** under the **chèque-service accueil system**, the parental assistant will have to qualify as a **qualified “chèque-service accueil” childcare provider**.

Invoicing under the chèque-service accueil system is carried out by the agence Dageselteren among others.

CONDITIONS FOR THE ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION AS A QUALIFIED “CHEQUE-SERVICE” CHILDCARE PROVIDER

Parental assistants are subject to the amended Law of 15th December 2017 regulating parental assistance and the amended Youth Law of 4th July 2008.

Parental assistants must attend **various training courses** at specific times:

- **48 hours** of training (“**preformation**”) to obtain the accreditation;
- **165 hours** of vocational **training for** parental assistants who have no previous professional qualification in the psychosocial, educational, socio-educational or health fields;
- **20 hours** of **further training** per year throughout their professional activity.

To ensure **the quality** of childcare provided by parental assistants, a number of **tools** have been developed, such as the national reference framework on non-formal education of children and young people, the business plan and the activity report.

Parental assistants who are qualified “chèque-service accueil” childcare providers are a part of this system:

- **National Reference Framework on Non-formal Education of Children and Young People**
This document contains a description of the general objectives and pedagogical guidelines that childcare facilities, including parental assistants, must implement for the benefit of children.
- **Development Plan**
Parental assistants must draft a development plan (business plan) describing the services they offer, their pedagogical concept and their educational practices. It must comply with the **National Reference Framework on Non-formal Education of Children and Young People**.
- **Activity Report**
Each year, the parental assistant writes an activity report that reflects the implementation of the business plan and how it has been put into practice when working with the children.

The parental assistant must deliver:

- a certificate of successful completion of 5 years of secondary education;
- the **original extracts from the criminal record** of the applicant and of all other adults in the household;
- a recent **medical certificate** attesting to their physical and psychological ability to care for children;
- a recent **certificate of first aid training**.

To obtain the accreditation, parental assistants must understand and be able to express themselves in **at least one of the country's three languages** (French, Luxembourgish, German) at a certified B2 level.

Parental assistants must respect the principles of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20th September 1989.

Parental assistants are **self-employed**. They must be personally affiliated to **the social security** system and comply with the relevant regulations. Parental assistants must hold a **professional civil liability insurance policy**. This insurance covers the parental assistant in case the child injures itself or a third party.



The rights and obligations of the parties (parental assistants, parents) must be set out in an **education and childcare contract**.

For parental assistants operating within the chèque-service accueil system, a model contract from the Ministry is available at the agence Dageselteren.

If necessary, and subject to certain conditions, the parental assistant can be **replaced** by a trusted person for **8 hours a week, up to a maximum of 200 hours a year**.

CONTROL

The requirements for the accreditation and the recognition as a qualified “chèque-service accueil” childcare provider are controlled by officials of the relevant ministry.

Supervision of pedagogical quality is carried out by regional agents assigned to the National Youth Service.



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