Working towards a strong interaction between parents and school.

PIM (PARTNERS IN MULTILINGUALISM)
FOYER VZW
HILDE DE SMEDT
62% of its inhabitants were born in another country or have a migration background. More than 100 languages are spoken in Brussels.

The eight best known languages are French, English, Dutch, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, German and Portuguese.

Turkish and Berber disappeared from the top 10, Romanian, Bulgarian and Polish rose in the rankings.

French remains by far the most widely spoken language in Brussels. 87% of survey participants indicated that they speak French well to excellently.

English has settled into the second position of best known language in Brussels.

90% of Brussels residents say they perceive the city's multilingualism as positive.
Target group PIM

**Multilingual families** with focus on:
- Migration background
- Socially more vulnerable families

**Younsters** with focus on:
- Reflection on identity
- School career

**Professionals** with focus on:
- Training
- Collaboration
Our tenets

Languages are communicating vessels
Understanding the link between language and identity
The well-being of all family members is central
Building the bridge from home language to Dutch together
More languages within families

In addition to Dutch and French, English is now on the rise
Specific features: attrition – anxiety – mixed language use
Monolingual Mindset causes pressure
Link minority languages and lower SES
Not all cultures are equally focused on verbal communication with young children.

Wider intergenerational gaps and more diversity between individual families.

It is only discussed in a limited way.

Cultural diversity
# Ideas that create distance

**PARENTS**
- Home language stays at home
- School is only interested in Dutch
- I cannot contribute much
- Children learn languages by themselves

**SCHOOL**
- Parents can contribute little
- Strengthening parents is not the school's job
- Individual parent contact is sufficient
Factors that perpetuate distance

- Lack of info among parents and teachers
- No time/space for meeting
- Contact focus around difficulties
Group sessions to bridge distance

FOCUS ON collaboration and emphasize the equality of the partnership, starting from:

- a common interest in the home language
- a shared commitment to the school language
- the belief that we can support each other (also in difficult moments).

AND...

The proof of the pudding is in the eating
# Group sessions to bridge distance

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<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>CONTENT</th>
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<td>- Choose a specific theme in consultation</td>
<td>- Multilingual parenting: home and school language</td>
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<tr>
<td>- School invites parents</td>
<td>- Language, attitudes and emotion</td>
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<td>- PIM guides the session</td>
<td>- Multilingual reading aloud</td>
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<td>- Teachers are present</td>
<td>- Strengthening the home language</td>
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<td>- Milestones and difficulties in language development</td>
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Visual tools

- language barriers are more easily overcome
- strong reminder

Ex 1. building the school language on the home language

Ex 2. Feelings about the school language
Interactive formats

- parents get to know each other
- parent/teacher connection strengthened

Ex 1. LIBA LINGUA – starting together
Ex 2. oral stories and books: experience exchange and practice together
Value individual ideas

- everyone gets to speak
- there is time to form your own idea

- Ex 1. How multilingual are you – being proud
- Ex 2. Language portret - Your personal attachment to languages
Reminders to take home

- A reminder to yourself
- Telling others about what you have learned
- Ex 1. Your language choices and your network
- Ex 2. Enhance language stimulation into your daily life
Liba Lingua
Reflections

Parents:
The strongest learning effect
Greater understanding of own abilities
New ideas and insights

Teachers:
New insights
Getting to know the family context better

Contact:
Between parents (Liba Lingua)
Parents - teacher (reading aloud)
Reflections

Work Points

Reaching more parents (communication)
More incentive to further cooperation
Continue to strengthen content
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