



Newsletter May 2023

## A message from Catherine

Hi REACH parents! Happy Spring! I know it has been awhile since I have been in touch with you all.



We are just starting to settle into our new normal. I am thrilled to report that Luke is adjusting to life in the US incredibly well. He is in a regular High School which has an amazing inclusive program and is on a high school diploma track. He is making lots of friends and is playing both baseball and soccer on the weekends. For the

GenEd kids, having a student with special needs participating in their classes is the norm. Many of the GenEd kids even volunteer afterschool in the 'Best Buddies' program – where they all have enjoyed activities together such as bowling, and had a Valentine's Day and Spring Fling dance! Luke also got a part in the school play 'The Wizard of Southside'! I am telling you all of this because Luke would never have been at this point without the hard work and dedication of our REACH team. They worked tirelessly with him on all of these skills that have gotten him to where he is today. Our Team believes in our kids and their abilities. And, I have seen first hand how important acceptance truly is. I am learning so much about how powerful inclusion and acceptance is and would love to implement a lot of these ideas at REACH. I may not be there physically, but I am still working hard for our kids and families behind the scenes. I also thought it was important to let you know



### Updates from Ceren

From May 21st onwards, a **new policy regarding late taxi pick-ups** will be effective. Please check your TEAMS for details regarding this policy.

We recently built two new libraries to REACH so our therapists and the children can have access to all the books we have!

For the safety of our clients and therapists, we occasionally change the passcode to enter REACH. This passcode is also shared with you on your teams' channel



that we hear you REACH parents! Ceren and I recently met with the REACH Parent Council. We gave them a summary of your recommendations from the anonymous survey that was sent at the end of the year. We are currently working on improving in the areas that need improving and implementing the things that were recommended. We will keep you informed. Stand strong parents and NEVER GIVE UP! Don't let anyone ever tell you that your child can't or won't. With your strength and perseverance, and with the help of our amazing REACH Team, your child can and will.



## A message from Irene

Irene, BCBA REACH Clinical Director

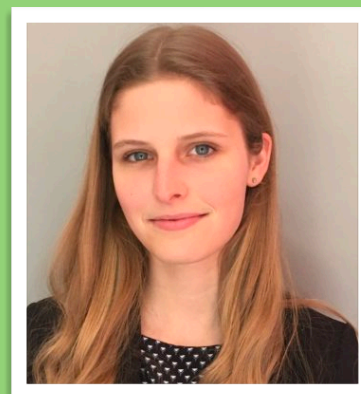
Hello REACH parents! I'm delighted to be back and reconnect with all of you. For those who don't know me, I'm Irene, a BCBA and Child Psychologist from Venice. I've been with REACH for nearly five years now. Recently, I returned from my maternity leave after having my second son in December. It has been a journey to find a new balance as mother of two active boys, but I'm making

progress. Excitingly, as of May, I have taken on the role of REACH Clinical Director. I'm immensely grateful to REACH for this opportunity. In upcoming newsletters, I will share updates on our behind-the-scenes work. Rest assured, something exciting is in the works! In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me via Teams or email me at [irene@stichtingreach.com](mailto:irene@stichtingreach.com).

## MEET THE STAFF

**Lilla, RBT-certified ABA specialist/begeleider**

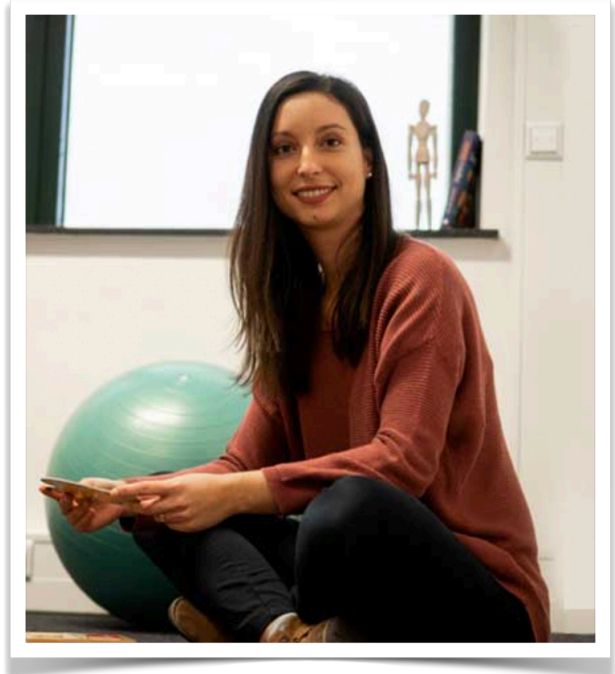
Hi this is Lilla! Here is something from me. I'm a psychologist from Hungary and I have moved to the Netherlands 2.5 years ago. As everyday biking is not that common in Hungary, I had a rocky start with going from A to B without a map, but I learned it and I cannot imagine my day without it now. The Netherlands gave me some of my cherished hobbies too. I have discovered how much I love bouldering and how relaxing is crochet and drawing are for me.



## Psychologist for parents: Kelly Filippopoulou

Kelly Filippopoulou Team Lead, BCBA

We understand that navigating the challenges of parenthood and adulthood can sometimes feel overwhelming. That's why we're excited to announce that Kelly Filippopoulou one of our team leads and psychologist has availability to take on adult clients. The approach Kelly uses is systemic helping you to navigate and find balance, clarity, and improved relationships in your life. Kelly's approaches therapy from a holistic perspective, recognizing that individuals are deeply connected to their families, relationships, and broader systems. The goal is to work collaboratively with you to explore the various dynamics that influence your well-being, whether it's within your family, your workplace, or other social contexts. For parents, Kelly provides a safe and supportive space to address the unique challenges that arise in raising children. Parenting can bring immense joy, but it can also be accompanied by stress, confusion, and conflicts. The services extend beyond the realm of parenthood to support adults facing a range of personal challenges such as anxiety, relationship issues, low mood, self esteem concerns etc. In the therapy sessions, you can expect a compassionate, non-judgmental, and confidential environment. We invite you to take the courageous step of reaching out and embarking on this therapeutic journey with Kelly. Investing in your own well-being or that of your family is an invaluable gift, and Kelly is here to guide and support you every step of the way. REACH would like to encourage you on starting this path by offering your first session for free. Please don't hesitate to contact Kelly at [kelly@stichtingreach.com](mailto:kelly@stichtingreach.com) to learn more about the services or schedule an appointment.



### ARTS AND CRAFTS FROM CLEMENCE



During spring, at Reach, we have been making all types of insects, animals and flowers that come out during this season! Your children created snails and caterpillars but also frogs and ducks, from paper plates, toilet paper rolls or simply cardboard paper. For Easter we recycled egg cartons and made easter rabbits that could hold small chocolate eggs and for King's day we used colorful paper cups and gave them life by decorating them as small kings with crown. For mother's day we also made a 3D card opening into a beautiful tulip and I hope all the mothers got their card!

**TIP FROM ME** We will finish this article with one tip for when you do arts and craft with your kids at home : Instead of giving instructions, do the full project at the same time, step by step, so they can observe what you do and copy you (and you can also share a nice creative moment with them!). Here you can find some ideas, click on this link [Newsletter May \(+templates \)](#)

