



Newsletter July 2023

A message from Catherine

Catherine, REACH Founder/Director

Hi REACH parents! Hope you are all doing well and are looking forward to some recharging time with family and friends during your summer holiday!

I thought I would share some food for thought from one parent to another. Never let anyone tell you that your child can't, will never or won't. Try not to be discouraged, always be an advocate and NEVER GIVE UP!

I say this as I was told when Luke was seven that he was "not learnable". I always knew that this was not the case and boy was my parental intuition correct! Luke has passed Freshman Year (9th grade) in High School and is heading into Sophomore year (10th grade) and received fantastic grades. He has made lots of friends and has one that he has had "hang out" days with (to cool to call it a play date). He was a recipient of the one of the "unsung heroes" awards which goes to the students who quietly and unassumingly demonstrate the desirable traits the high school seeks in all their students: respect towards others, responsibility caring, fairness and trustworthiness. He also killed it as the Tin Man in the school play the 'Wizard of South Side!'



Luke has been able to accomplish all of this because the REACH Team laid the foundation for his success by tirelessly working with him on the skills necessary for him to thrive in a school environment. I truly believe that he would not be where he is today without the amazing work of the REACH Team. They always believed that Luke could and would succeed. And now he is at a school where the educators and peers believe the same.

Keep fighting the good fight, my fellow warrior parents, and know that your children are in great hands at REACH as our Team understands and believes in your child and they are passionate about helping them reach their full potential.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer holiday!

MEET THE STAFF

Nicky, Therapist. ABA specialist/begeleider

Hi I'm Nicky, I moved to the Netherlands with my wife and two young children 3.5 years ago. Originally from Scotland I worked at a residential school for children and young people living with complex and additional support needs. We have settled into the Netherlands superbly and love the relaxed way of life here. I have just finished a University Bachelors in Vocational Pedagogy - and I am waiting patiently for my final result. Now that it is complete, it's time for me to focus on learning the Dutch language for professional and personal reasons - such as understanding my sons when they are making jokes with their friends (possibly about me!) I am an avid Aberdeen football club fan and I am thankful there is a way to watch the games from here in the Netherlands. The weather in the Netherlands is a lot nicer than we get in Scotland, which means as a family we now have a much more active lifestyle. I like nothing more than going out for a cycle or a game of football with my sons.



A message from Irene

Irene, BCBA REACH Clinical Director

Hello REACH parents! Here we are again, with our last newsletter for this school year. I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to our amazing staff. It's been a busy and intense year, filled with lots of changes and new beginnings. We had some changes in the administration, new children joining REACH, and a few colleagues moving on to new adventures. But throughout it all, our staff has remained dedicated to providing the very best care for "our" kids. We are incredibly grateful for their unwavering commitment. I also want to extend a big thank you to all of you, REACH parents, for your continued trust and support. We never take it for granted and feel privileged to be a part of your journey. Now, let's talk about a few other things. First, I would like to wish all the best to Mariasi, Thea, and Marianna as they move on to pursue their next steps outside of REACH. We will miss them dearly. On the other hand, we are excited to welcome Galya as part of our team. She successfully completed her internship at the end of June and will join us as a junior staff/assistant after the summer break. Furthermore, I would like to invite all REACH families to an opening afternoon on **September 22nd, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for parents to come together, meet one another, and begin forming a support network. It's also a chance for us to introduce ourselves and give you an idea of what your kids will be doing in the new term at REACH. We've made a few changes to the day schedule and group activities, and we're excited to share those details with you. So, mark your calendars as we hope you will make every effort to attend. Lastly, I want to wish you all a fantastic few weeks of summer days. We understand that breaking from routines can be challenging for all 'our' families, but we believe we can turn these next few weeks into an opportunity to reconnect and spend quality time together, doing things that bring us happiness. So, my wish for all of us in the upcoming weeks is to find joy in the company of our loved ones.



See you very soon!

Irene, irene@stichtingreach.com





Updates from Ceren

Ceren Akarsu, Office manager. MSc.

Dear parents, for the week of July 17th-21st we had REACH Summer Camp 2023. During the past week, our amazing therapists have organized various fun and educative activities to end the term in a fun way and kickstart the summer vacation.

•On Monday and Thursday everyone, together with their therapists, have received a Snake Bubble workshop from me :)

- On Tuesday, Eddy hosted group water splash sessions outside or inside!
- On Friday, after a collaborative summer art session with Clemence, we will end the week with a music session with Natalia.

Each of these activities have been incorporated to each clients schedules regardless of whether they are in a group or not so everyone gets to have fun equally. We also had ice lollies for everyone to cool off at the end of the day.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FROM CLEMENCE



Since our last newsletter, we moved from Spring to Summer and so did our arts and crafts! We replaced the flowers and small insects of the spring with a beach and sea full of crabs, turtles, and other creatures. And with the kids, we did not forget our summer outfit either! We created retro sunglasses that will catch everyone's eye this summer. We are also ready in case the sun hits too much and we get thirsty; we made colorful and refreshing lemonade glasses! And the best for last, for father's day, we made all the dads travel to the moon with our paper rockets.

TIP FROM ME: If you want to keep creating summer crafts with your children, here is one tip, find activities that give them freedom in their creations instead of following instructions that are too specific! See our sandcastles below? The kids were free to color the background how they wanted with watercolor, and it made each castle unique! Enjoy your summer and see you next year for more art!

