



Newsletter December 2024

A Message From Catherine

Catherine, REACH Founder/Director

Wow, REACH parents what a year 2024 has been!

In September, we learned that motion to ban ABA in Den Haag had been passed. Although the motion was passed, the wethouter(s) and mayor believe more time is needed to consult with the Youth and Family Aid Partnerships before they made a final decision which was scheduled for no later than 17 December 2024.

We never believed that a ban on the evidence-based science of ABA was possible. We believed that the Gemeente would conduct, at the very least, an investigation into the individuals or organizations who were the subject of the complaints. To our knowledge, REACH was not one of them. Thus, we were blindsided by the passing of this motion and how it could impact our children and families.



We worked tirelessly during the following months, behind the scenes to do what we could to convince the wethouder(s) that this was the wrong decision. If they had decided to move forward with this ban, our children from Gemeente Den Haag would no longer have received the services they so desperately needed and deserved. We sent letters from parents, staff and as an organization to the wethouder(s) for Care and Education, strongly rejecting this motion. All of these letters were powerful and in support of ABA and the positive impact it has had on the children and families attending Reach.

In November, my son Luke and I made a trip to the Netherlands in support of REACH at the City Council meeting where this motion to ban ABA in The Hague was being discussed. There was no way that I was going to sit idly by in NY while ABA, the evidence-based science that changed by son's life and the lives of so many others, was on the line. It was fantastic to be with our amazing team and parents. I was so proud to be part of such an incredible place. And then to hear the wethouder of education say that the government had no right dictating what treatment a child receives and that this decision is up to the professionals and parents – could not have made me happier. It was because of your advocacy and support, and the hard work and dedication of the amazing REACH Team that the wethouder(s) reversed their decision and rejected to motion. We couldn't have done this without you all.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your incredible trust and support in all that we do, and continue to do, at REACH.

Motion to Ban ABA in Municipality of The Hague

Irene & Jane

During the summer, a motion for banning ABA in The Hague was passed. While this decision took us by surprise, as we never believed a ban on evidence-based ABA therapy was possible, from summer to end of the year we actively work behind the scenes to address this issue. Although the motion was passed, the wethouter(s) and mayor believe more time is needed to consult with the Youth and Family Aid Partnerships before they can make a final decision which would be made on December 2024 eventually was postponed to January 2025.

Our concern is that a blanket ban would unfairly affect families who rely on ethical, compassionate, and effective ABA services, like those provided at REACH. We strongly believe that any investigation should focus on unethical practices rather than ABA as a whole. If they decide to move forward with this ban, our children will no longer receive the services they so desperately need and deserve!

We are also optimistic that after obtaining more information, they will ultimately reverse their decision as we can share our success stories, we have nothing to hide, and our high-quality work speaks for itself. We are proud of our team, our children, and their success. We are also very proud of the strong relationships we have built with our families.



On November 7, we had an important presentation before the City Council of The Hague. A heartfelt thank you to Ludmilla Skinner, who delivered a powerful speech advocating for our children. A heartfelt thank you to the parents who joined us and to everyone who submitting personal statements about the positive impact of ABA therapy in their children's lives as well our REACH Team for their ongoing support. Your voices matter, and we are hopeful that, with continued advocacy, we can ensure that ethical, evidence-based ABA therapy remains accessible to those who need it.

This represents a significant step forward, marking an important milestone in our efforts. While we remain confident in the strength of our case and the support we have received from key stakeholders, we must await the formal decision from the City Council, now scheduled for January 2025. We will continue to keep you updated as this situation unfolds.

Client Satisfaction Survey Results

At Stichting REACH Holland, we remain committed to delivering high-quality ABA-based care for children with autism and their families. In the second half of 2024, we conducted a Client Satisfaction Survey, which reaffirmed our dedication to excellence.

Parents expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the professionalism, kindness, and inclusivity of our staff. Families also highlighted the clear communication and individualized support provided to their children, as well as their satisfaction with our evidence-based approach.

We are incredibly proud of these results and will continue striving to enhance our services. [The full report is available for viewing in both English and Dutch here.](#)

Visit of Elena, our Supervisor's Supervisor



On November 5th, we had the pleasure of welcoming Elena, the supervisor of our BCBA's. We regularly meet with her on a weekly basis, ensuring our team receives continuous guidance and support to provide the highest level of care. Her expertise is invaluable in helping us refine our practices and further improve the services we offer to our children and families.

New Parent Support Group

We are thrilled to share there is a support group for parents at REACH, initiated by one of our very own parents, Uliana. As a special needs parent, psychologist, coach, and yoga teacher, Uliana understands firsthand the challenges of raising neurodivergent children.

This group meets bi-monthly and provides a confidential and safe space for parents to share their experiences, support one another, and learn from each other. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Uliana —we would love to hear your thoughts and ensure this group meets your needs.

Updates from Staff:

- Congratulations to Marianna for receiving her RBT certification
- Congratulations to Ofri and Eddy for the arrival of their daughter

MEET THE TEAM: MARIA

Hi! I'm Maria, and I recently moved to the Netherlands to pursue a Master's in Child and Adolescent Psychology. My academic journey led me to Reach, where I was given not only an internship but also a unique opportunity to experience the joy of supporting neurodivergent children and their families in learning new skills and thriving.

In this meaningful crossing of paths, Reach welcomed me -a Greek psychology student with experience in autism and, above all, a deep, authentic interest in helping children feel seen and empowered. At the same time, I found a safe and inspiring place to learn, grow, collaborate with experts, and practice what I love. This journey ultimately led me to join the Reach team as a junior therapist after completing my internship.

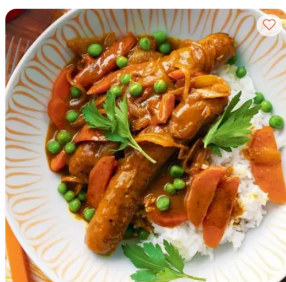
I'm excited to continue expanding my knowledge and skills, connecting with more children, and discovering how I can best support them in their growth. In my free time, I enjoy exploring music, capturing the world through photography, and appreciating the beauty of nature. My curiosity has always been my guide, from a child eager to explore the world to a therapist dedicated to helping



RESOURCE SHARING

We wanted to share two wonderful resources with you:

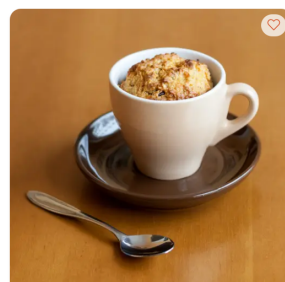
1. **Guide to Neurodiversity** – A simple yet effective resource that explains neurodiversity in a clear and accessible way. We encourage you to read and share it with others.
2. **Accessible Chef** – A fantastic website offering easy-to-follow recipes designed for children, making cooking a fun and inclusive activity. You can explore the site here: <https://accessiblechef.com/>



Curried Sausages



Cheesy Garlic Bread



Banana Bread in Mug