

WELCOME AT FORTE



laat je groeien

www.fortekinderopvang.nl



WELCOME AT FORTE

“Choose for
quality of life!”

Many expat families will reside in Amsterdam or will choose for ‘quality of life’ away from the hustle and bustle of the city and seek residence in the vicinity (Alkmaar, Bergen, Heiloo, Castricum): family-friendly areas near the coast, the dunes and the forest but within thirty minutes from Amsterdam. Life in these cities is less hurried and busy, and the social facilities, education and housing are well organised. The European school in Bergen is an example, but local primary education is also high quality – and there are no waiting lists for schools or childcare facilities.

Forte Kinderopvang has been offering childcare in North Holland since 1969, just 20 to 50 kilometers from Amsterdam, in the coastal cities of Alkmaar, Bergen, Castricum and Heiloo and surrounding areas. Here you can experience rural living, easy access to Amsterdam with all the social services desirable to a young family. Forte Kinderopvang has more than 60 locations and nearly 400 expert and committed employees. We care for 3,000 children every week in daycare centers (children aged 0-4 years) and out-of-school care (BSO): childcare before and after school and during holidays for children aged 4-12.

In 2018, we were named the number two childcare organisation in the Netherlands, for which we received an award.

At Forte Kinderopvang, we understand moving with a family is a big step. Quality childcare that fits your needs can make things easier. We are happy to discuss your individual needs in order to find a solution.

About Forte

We offer children a safe environment every day in which they feel welcome. With us, they can be themselves. We encourage children to get the best out of themselves and prepare them for the future. They learn to fully maximise their potential and discover their talents, so they can face this challenging world with courage.

We have experienced pedagogical staff who give loving attention to the children and who can communicate with the children and parents in both Dutch and English.

Every day, parents trust their children to us with confidence and with a good feeling toward our staff. That way, they have time for their personal development, whether it is in work, education or relaxation. We give parents the space to grow and are happy to take care of their children.



In a world that never stands still, developing yourself is a must. We believe that we should do that together. That is why we work closely with municipalities, institutions and schools, and share our knowledge. This allows us to offer children and their parents the best activities, sports and hobbies, all in connection with school. In turn, the organisations with which we collaborate apply our knowledge and experience for their own services. That's how we all grow.

We are experienced professionals dedicated to contributing to the development of children. We are driven by our commitment to ensuring that each child is motivated at every stage of development to learn or develop his or her talents. We are an expert parenting partner, incomparable to other childcare centres.

That's because we are flexible and enterprising. We are curious and like to think outside the fixed frameworks. What we stand for is reflected in our Fortewards. These values are the guideline for daily activities within Forte Kinderopvang:

- **Safe:** Forte offers a safe environment for personal growth and development.
- **Welcome:** By responding to the needs of children and their parents, we make sure that everyone feels welcome at Forte, no matter where they are from. We happily exceed everyone's expectations.
- **Growth:** Forte staff applies all its talents and skills in order to let children and their parents get the best out of themselves. With us, you can become who you want to be.
- **Courage:** We look beyond the norm. We like to think outside the fixed frameworks and take the initiative to search for the best solutions. If we think, know or feel that something can contribute to the development and well-being of a child, we do it.

Forte Quality

At Forte Kinderopvang, it is self-evident that all laws and regulations are complied with. We therefore meet the highest quality standards.

- All locations comply with the requirements of the Childcare Act, the requirements of the GGD (Area Health Authority) and the Forte Quality System.
- Our locations are housed in high-quality premises that meet all the government's requirements for childcare.
- All our employees meet the set educational requirements, have a statement about the behaviour, use the code of conduct and professional code, work from the established Pedagogical Policy and are trained on an annual basis.

Practical information

If you avail of childcare in the Netherlands, you are entitled to a childcare allowance, which is a provision organised by the tax authorities. Our customer service colleagues will gladly explain this to you. They are also happy to inform you about the costs of childcare, as well as the possibilities and services that we can offer you in terms of discount when booking multiple sessions, but also our flexible exchange policy (if you unexpectedly need extra care or want to swap days, it is not a problem) and other possibilities.

We like to make it as comfortable as possible: We have our own Forte app with which you can easily discover what your child is doing at Forte. Additional services can also be arranged through this app.

In addition to our basic offer, we also offer many other services. You put together your own package with which you feel comfortable. Every child and every family is unique: we are happy to adjust our services here.



WHAT WE OFFER IN TERMS OF DAYCARE (0-4 YEARS)

We can take care of your little ones without waiting lists. We offer children from 0-4 years all possibilities to play and learn in a familiar and safe environment, under the guidance of our professional, pedagogically trained staff. The little ones come to fruition in our specially equipped baby rooms, both indoors and outside. This occurs calmly and regularly, so that they feel safe. And toddlers grow through the activities we offer, which stimulate and inspire.

We offer daycare for children between the ages of 0 and 4 years. From 7 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (or in consultation) we take care of your baby or toddler with love, with affectionate attention and professional care given by an expert and experienced pedagogical staff. We offer the children an extensive and healthy breakfast, warm lunch and dinner – all fully organic, of course, and if desired we provide vegetarian or vegan options. Does your child have allergies? We will take this into account. Nappies, fruit and the standard bottle-feeding are included in our rate.

We offer the children development-stimulating programs and work with periodic themes in which we offer various activities, workshops and outings, tailored to the age and interest of the child.

We go outside with the children! Playing outside, or going on outings in prams or wagons. The smallest children also sleep outside (if the parents desire) in special outdoor beds.

In the Netherlands, you have the right to pregnancy leave from 6 to 4 weeks before the day after the due date (in the case of multiple birth 8-10 weeks). Pregnancy leave lasts until the day of delivery. You have the right to at least 10 weeks' maternity leave. After this, Forte is ready to take care of your child with love and dedication. We would like to inform you about the rights and legislation regarding maternity leave.



WHAT WE OFFER IN TERMS OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE (4-12 YEARS)

If you decide to register your children at the European School in Bergen or at a local elementary school in North Holland (in the area of Haarlem, Alkmaar, Bergen and the surrounding areas), Forte will take care of the pre-school, after-school and holiday care with generous dedication. Children aged 4-12 years blossom through the rich range of activities that we adjust to their ages and interests. Playing and relaxing go hand in hand. Before or after school, or during the holidays, at a Forte BSO there is always something fun to do!

We offer childcare before school (from 7 a.m.), after school (until 7 p.m. or later by agreement) and during school holidays and study days. Children are brought to and picked up from school in cars. You do not have to worry about transport to or from our facilities. We offer the children an extensive and healthy breakfast, warm lunch and dinner – all fully organic, of course, and if desired vegetarian or vegan. Does your child have allergies? We will take this into account!

We offer a unique range of workshops and activities that we adapt to the age and interests of the children – an offer that stimulates and inspires, lets them discover their talents and let them grow.

At our locations we offer an extensive range of games and sport equipment. In addition, we organise, based on various themes, workshops, activities and outings, designed for the

age and interest of the child – it's an offer that stimulates and inspires, lets them discover their talents and helps them grow. Not only with sports and games, but also technology, culture, theatre and music. We pay attention to all of this and the children and their talents flourish because of it.

We offer more!

- **Swimming BSO:** At various BSOs, pedagogical staff accompany the children during their required swimming lessons. The Netherlands is a water-rich country, so it is important that all children get their swimming diplomas. We are happy to take this for you and guide the children to swimming lessons, until they get their diplomas!
- **OutdoorSportBSO:** For active children there is, in cooperation with local sports clubs, a SportBSO at various locations where the children can exercise under the supervision of professional sports instructors. They learn what team sport is and can enjoy being together. This also includes surfing and canoeing and enjoying the sea and beach.
- **Theatre and culture:** We offer workshops focused on music, theatre and dance. With professional guidance, the most creative talents flourish.
- **Homework support and tutoring:** In cooperation with professional educational entities, we offer homework assistance to the children who want or need it. Additional lessons, for example, in Dutch (or English) language are also possible.
- **HolidayBSO:** Holidays must be a real holiday, even if you as parents may not be able to take leave. Every school vacation, we offer a unique program full of fun outings and activities, so they have a real holiday experience. Field trips, sports and exercise, culture and science and technology: we offer something for every child.





In Closing

We are happy to offer you a helping hand, not only with regard to the care of your children. We can well imagine that it is also nice to meet other young, international families regularly and exchange experiences with each other and enjoy free time in the beautiful surroundings of North Holland. We regularly offer theme meetings and workshops, including first aid courses and lectures by parenting experts, which are offered to you and your family without any obligation.

Wherever you live, whatever you wish, we are ready to find a suitable solution together. You can focus on other matters in the knowledge that your children are in good hands. We can offer personal support from both our central office and the location where your child is being looked after and help you however necessary.

Would you like to get to know us from wherever you are? We can organise Skype calls from anywhere in the world. We can also show you the different locations and provide information. But of course you are also welcome for a guided tour, during your orientation or visit to the Netherlands.

Our expatriate expert Jacky Vermanen is happy to help. You can reach her via klantenservice@fortekinderopvang.nl or by telephone on +31 251 658 058 (choose option 1).

For more information:

www.fortekinderopvang.nl/english

Daycare • Before/After-School and Holiday Care • Toddler Care

Akersloot • Alkmaar • Bergen • Castricum • Egmond • Graft- De Rijk • Heerhugowaard • Heiloo • Middenbeemster • Schoorl • Stompetoren • West-Graftdijk • Zuidoostbeemster



Forte Childcare

Postbus 401

1900 AK Castricum

T +31 251 - 658 058*

E klantenservice@fortekinderopvang.nl

* Choose 1 for customer service

www.fortekinderopvang.nl/english