

Utrecht's pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

Everybody is able to live happy and healthy in a growing city. Therefore we pledge to **principle 11 on Childcare and support to children**:

Children have the right to affordable early childhood education and care of good quality.
Children have the right to protection from poverty.
Children from disadvantaged backgrounds have the right to specific measures to enhance equal opportunities.

Utrecht aims to be a city where everyone feels at home, can participate and can be themselves. We embrace the growth of the city as the opportunity to ensure a healthy and pleasant living environment for everyone. Together we work on a healthy and pleasant city: Utrecht belongs to all of us.

Our long term ambitions:

Growing up healthy and safely: Our ambition is that **every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and to develop optimally**. All children are able to participate and to develop their talents in a safe and stimulating environment. For the coming phase we will focus on a healthy start for young children from minus 9 months (conception) to 6 years old and we will focus on their parents.

The Voice of Children: We are a Children Rights City and let the voice of children be heard in making policy. Children have been involved poverty policy, public art and the making of healthy playgrounds.

Peaceful City Council: Children learn about **democracy and citizenship** in the Peaceful Children City Council. It starts in the classroom at school where children are asked what their peaceful school or neighbourhood looks like and what they can contribute to it themselves.

Our actions during the Covid-19 crisis:

No child is left behind during the Covid-19 crisis:

While day care was closed because of crisis measures, we let children in vulnerable families and children from parents that are essential workers in the crisis **go to day care**.

Together with the schools **we provided internet and we supplied computers/laptops/pads** for families with a lack of resources.

We **support initiatives of learning by citizens together** to not let children be left behind.

Maarten van Ooijen

Deputy mayor Social Affairs for the City of Utrecht
Vice-Chair of the Social Affairs Forum of EURO CITIES

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Maarten van Ooijen".