COA publishes annual inventory of living and residence conditions of children in reception

The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) published the annual inventory of the living and residence conditions of children in reception. The aim of this inventory is to provide quantitative insight into the presence of facilities for children at COA locations. It distinguishes between 'hard' facilities, such as education, care, play and recreational activities and the presence of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Officers and Children's Contact Persons, and 'soft' facilities, including closed sleeping facilities, own cooking facilities, play facilities, information and participation.

COA reported that improvement was visible for some indicators, including access to healthcare, education and the presence of Children's Contact Persons. However, other points deserved attention, especially in emergency shelters which generally scored lower than regular shelters on various components. COA also noted that locations for unaccompanied young people aged between 13-17 usually produced higher scores than locations where children resided with their parents.

COA acknowledged that emergency shelter is not an ideal environment for children to grow up, which is why it continues to focus on sufficiently stable reception location, limiting placement of children in emergency shelter where possible and further strengthening facilities and guidance. It emphasised that more efficient cooperation is required between the government, municipalities, and education, healthcare and social organisations.

Source(s)

- Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (11 September, 2026), Jaarlijkse inventarisatie leefomstandigheden kinderen in de opvang [Annual inventory of living conditions of children in childcare], https://www.coa.nl/nl/nieuws/jaarlijkse-inventarisatie-leefomstandigheden-kinderen-de-opvang

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