



*EFFECT STUDY SOCIAL
INTERVENTION
"THUIS OP STRAAT"
("AT HOME ON THE STREET")*

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What we know?

- Bad playing conditions for children in problematic neighborhoods
- Insufficient opportunities for safe play or sports
- Studies have shown that these conditions have a negative impact on the psychosocial development of children.



CONTEXT

- No or broken playing facilities for children 6-12years
- Filthy playing grounds
- Car traffic
- Children fear
- Children are not allowed to leave their houses to play outside
- Especially many children of immigrants have no other opportunities than playing outside
- Lack of supervision of parents and other adults

“AT HOME ON THE STREETS” (TOS)

- TOS is an organization that aims 'to give the streets back to the children'
- TOS aims to improve the social and physical quality of playing conditions in problematic neighborhoods in cities
- Done by offering activities and play facilities in the streets



The Program, to children

- TOS challenges local children (6-14 years) to take part in activities and encourages them to accept their own responsibility
- TOS encourages self-confidence of children
- Rules of play are very important (sharing, awaiting your turn, not discriminating against anyone)
- TOS professionals lend their ears to the children



The Program, to parents and adults

- Efforts are also made to improve participation by parents and other residents
- Rules are also important here (social cohesion, supervision, trust)



Results

- TOS is active in more than 30 districts in Dutch cities
- Organizing more than 17.000 activities on a yearly basis
- Approximately half of the total number of children in these districts annually take part in one or more activities
- 600.000 child contacts each year



Earlier research

- Proces research (Masson, 2002; Karyotis et al., 2005; Engbersen & Voogd, 2004; Van Wonderen et al., 2006; Boonstra et al., 2009)
- Positive results on playclimate and well-being of children
- Positive results on bonding between children
- Positive results on bridging differences between children



Important Dutch publications mention this intervention

- WRR, 2005
- RMO, 2006
- Databank effective intervention NJI (promising)
- TIJ (databank Rotterdam, effective)



Aims of the study

Does playing outside really makes a difference and can we determine if TOS really improves:

- social safety and climate in the neighborhood
- emotional and social safety for children
- reduces psychosocial problems and antisocial behavior.



Design

- Quasi-experimental (10 experimental and 10 control)
- Longitudinal design (development of youngsters over three waves)
- Propensity score matching
- Multiple imputation on missing values
- Multilevel analyses

Method

- On all 20 locations we followed approximately 40 children in their social behaviour and social emotional development,
- We used the parents version of the *Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)*
- SDQ has 25 items total scale and 5 subscales (emotion, conduct, hyperactivity, peer relation, positive social behavior) and total scale)
- In total 637 children were involved in this study
- We also measured impact on quality of playing and on neighbourhood (Sampson-scale)



VOOR MATCHING (N=644)

Variabelen	Gemiddelde		T-Test	
	Exp (321)	Controle (323)	t	p
WOONDUURKORT	0.13	0.11	-0.87	0.39
KINDTHUISWOONEEN	0.13	0.19	2.028	0.04*
GESLACHTV	0.52	0.63	-2.211	0.03*
LEEFTIJDJONG	0.52	0.52	0.076	0.94
LEEFTIJDMIDDEN	0.32	0.31	-0.392	0.67
LEEFTIJDoud	0.17	0.16	0.90	0.70
ETNICITEITNED	0.93	0.94	0.51	0.61
oudstekinderen	0.49	0.39	-2.459	0.01**
SCHOOLKINDREG	0.74	0.78	-1.148	0.25
GESLACHTRESPV	0.78	0.73	-1.420	0.16
LFTRESPJ	0.28	0.17	-3.353	0.00***
WONINGH	0.62	0.60	-0.501	0.62
THUISITUATIEALLEENST	0.21	0.23	0.815	0.42
GEBOORTELANDRESPONDENTNED	0.44	0.43	-0.228	0.82
MEESTGESPROKENTAALNED	0.45	0.54	2.053	0.04*
OPLEIDINGRESPONDENTLAAG	0.18	0.17	-0.550	0.58
BETAALDEWERKZAAMHEDENJA	0.56	0.57	0.307	0.76
P-SCORE	0.53	0.47	-6.138	0.00***

NA MATCHING (N=637)	Gemiddelde		T-Test	
	Exp (315)	Controle (322)	T	P
Variabelen				
WOONDUURKORT	0.14	0.12	0.59	0.55
KINDTHUISWOONEEN	0.11	0.13	0.61	0.54
GESLACHTV	0.52	0.60	-2.16	0.03*
LEEFTIJDJONG	0.52	0.58	-1.51	0.13
LEEFTIJDMIDDEN	0.32	0.29	0.77	0.44
LEEFTIJDoud	0.16	0.13	1.13	0.26
ETNICITEITNED	0.93	0.94	-0.50	0.62
oudstekingdeEN	0.49	0.44	1.19	0.23
SCHOOLKINDREG	0.78	0.78	-0.00	1.00
GESLACHTRESPV	0.78	0.81	-1.18	0.24
LFTRESPJ	0.28	0.28	-0.00	1.00
WONINGH	0.61	0.56	1.29	0.198
THUISSITUATIEALLEENST	0.20	0.13	2.45	0.02*
GEBOORTELANDRESPONDENTNED	0.43	0.42	0.40	0.69
MEESTGESPROKENTAALNED	0.46	0.46	-0.00	1.00
OPLEIDINGRESPONDENTLAAG	0.19	0.19	-0.20	0.84
BETAALDEWERKZAAMHEDENJA	0.56	0.49	1.91	0.06
P-SCORE	0.53	0.47	-6.152	0.00***

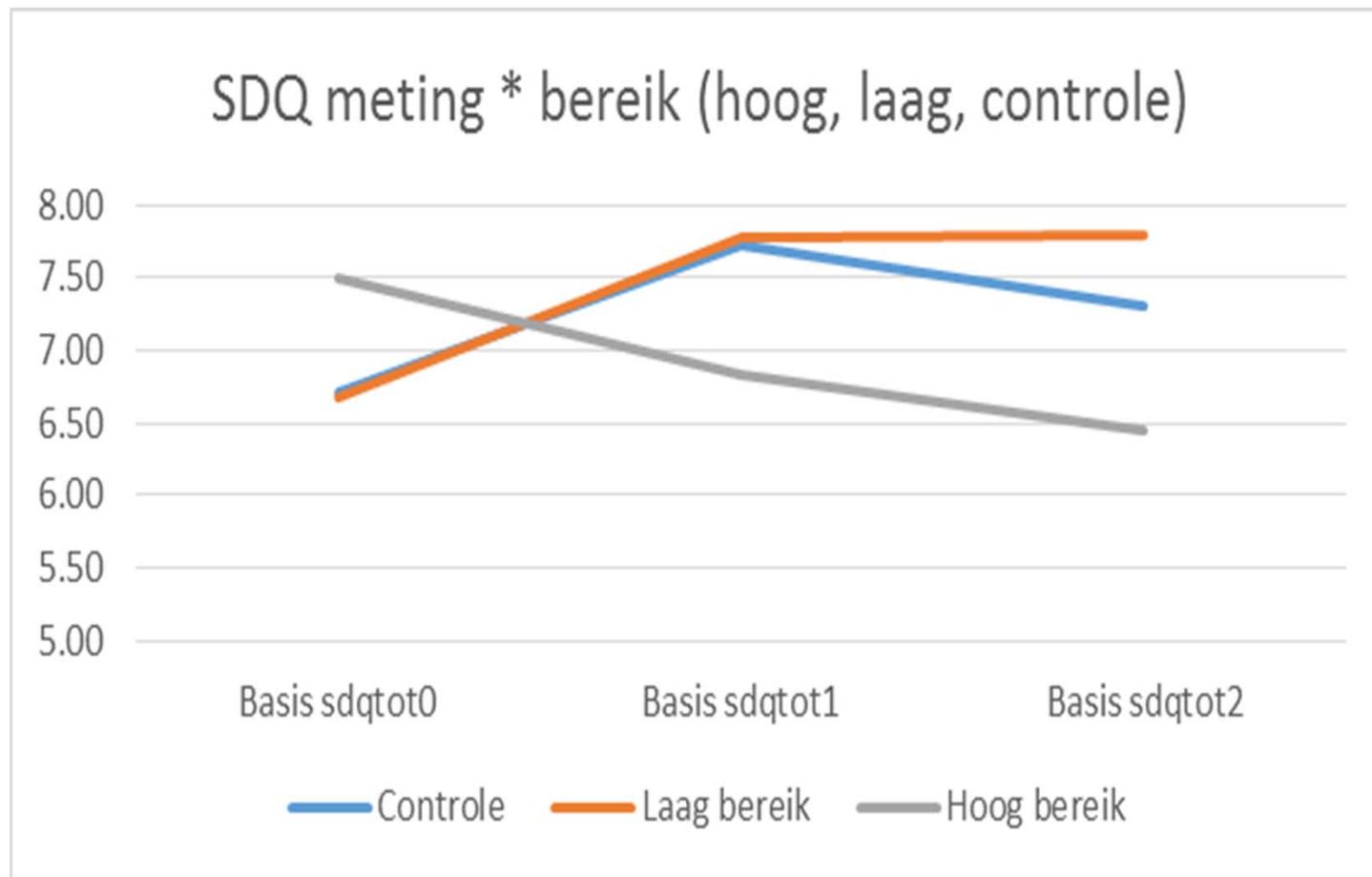
Summary multilevel analyses

	Model 0	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
	B (SE B)	B (SE B)	B (SE B)	B (SE B)
SDQ-totaal				
Constant	7.19 (0.21)	4.37 (0.33)	5.09 (0.49)	5.46 (0.52)
SDQ-nulmeting		0.41*** (0.04)	0.42*** (0.04)	0.42*** (0.04)
Leeftijd (dummy)			-0.12 (0.10)	-0.11 (0.10)
Geslacht			-0.25 (0.38)	-0.32 (0.38)
Etniciteit (dummy)			-0.44 (0.40)	-0.46 (0.41)
Exp. conditie				-0.74* (0.35)
Random				
Meting	1.09 (19.34)	1.12(9.51)	1.12 (15.76)	1.12 (13.54)
ID	1.86 (10.27)	1.79 (6.12)	1.78 (10.79)	1.78 (9.42)
Cov(meting, id)	-1.17 (7.41)	-1.26 (4.26)	-1.26 (7.72)	-1.27 (6.75)
Residu	1.08 (9.89)	1.06 (5.35)	1.06 (8.96)	1.06 (7.93)

* p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001.



Intensity



Multilevel analyses on intensity and agegroup

	Model 4	Model 5
	B (SE B)	B (SE B)
SDQ-totaal		
Constant	5.44 (0.50)	6.12 (0.52)
SDQ-nulmeting	0.43*** (0.04)	0.43*** (0.04)
Leeftijd	-0.12 (0.09)	-0.30** (0.10)
Geslacht	-0.44 (0.38)	-0.59 (0.38)
Etniciteit (dummy)	-0.40 (0.40)	-0.49 (0.39)
Hoogintensief (dummy)	-1.45*** (0.50)	-2.88*** (0.54)
Hoogintensief * Leeftijd (dummy)		3.00*** (0.76)
Meting	1.13 (18.50)	1.14 (17.88)
ID	1.78 (13.31)	1.78 (13.28)
Cov(meting, id)	-1.28 (9.48)	-1.30 (9.04)
Residu	1.05 (11.19)	1.04 (11.78)

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$.



Results playing

- Children play outside more frequently outside
- Children have less fear to play outside
- Playing conditions have been improved according to parents on TOS locations, but not in the neighbourhood as a whole



Conclusions

- Positive effects on SDQ of intervention (ES=0.08)
- Positive effects are only in high impact condition (ES=0.31)
- Positive effects on playing conditions and frequency of playing outside
- Playing conditions improve on TOS locations, but not in the neighbourhood as a whole



Practical consequences for professionals and cities

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- Interventions like *'At Home on the Street'* can be effective, but require significant investments
- It might be wiser to intervene on a limited number of spots with sufficient resources and intensity, then to intervene on a number of spots but with limited resources





Dank!

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