



Impulsclass/Familyclass in the Dutch Context



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How (some) children perceive their classroom



So what do we know now?

- 
- We know that this is hard for children
 - Still it is a challenge for inclusive education to help these children
 - So we look for innovative programs(arrangements) which deal with this

This presentation:

- 
- Research questions
 - Method
 - Results
 - Conclusions

Research questions (1)



Questions

1. What is the Impulsclass?
2. What are the first results of the Impulsclass?
3. Improvement of the method (pilots of the Impulsclass)

Focus:

- Relationships between child, parents and teachers
 - Educational partnership (Smit, Sluiter & Driessen, 2006)
- Attitude and behaviour (towards schoolwork) of the child

Method

Participants:

2 pilot Impulsclasses (Leiden, Breda) , 4 involved schools

12 parents and children

Instruments:

Questionnaires: CBSK, CBCL, TRF (for child, parent and teacher)

Observations: 4

Semi-structured interviews

- Parents (n=4)
- Teachers (n=4)
- Teachers of the Impulsclass (n=4)

Results Question 1 : What is the Impulssclass?

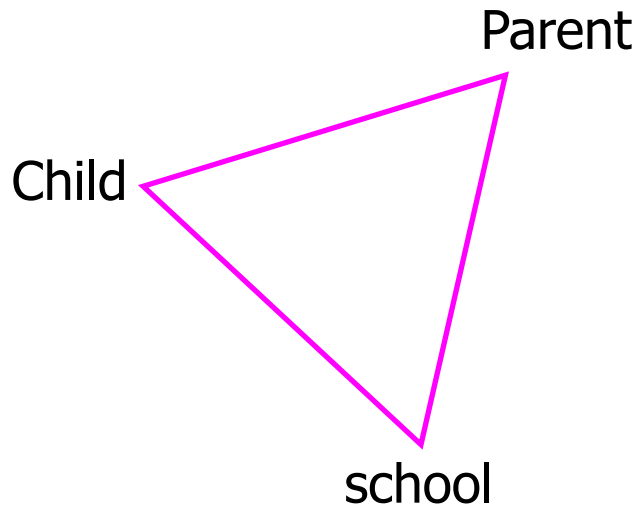
- Special class one morning a week
 - Worktime, circle time & energizers
- 2 Impulssclass teachers
- Each child has 3 or 4 personal goals
- 12 weeks in total
- At least one parent every week



Results Question 1: What is the Impulsclass?

Theoretical Backgrounds:

- Solution focused approach (de Shazer & Berg)
- Family therapeutic approach
- System therapy



Results Question 1: What is the Impulsclass?

DE
IMPULS
KLAS

Aan de slag met gedrag!

DEZE KAART IS VAN



3	Score of child							Score of teacher or parent						
	3 moments in the morning				3 moments in the afternoon			3 moments in the morning				3 moments in the afternoon		
Monday	A	4	4	4	4	4	3	A	4	4	4	4	4	3
	B	4	4	3	4	3	3	B	3	3	3	3	2	2
	C	4	4	3	4	3	3	C	3	4	4	3	2	2
	D							D						
Tuesday	A	4	4	4	4	4	4	A	4	4	4	4	4	4
	B	4	4	4	4	4	4	B	4	4	4	4	4	4
	C	4	4	4	4	4	4	C	4	4	4	4	4	4
	D							D						
Wednesday	A	3						A	3					
	B	3						B	3					
	C	4						C	4					
	D							D						
Thursday	A	4	4	4	4	4	2	A	4			3	2	1
	B	4	4	4	4	4	2	B	4			4	2	1
	C	4	4	4	4	4	2	C	4			4	2	1
	D							D						
Friday	A	4	3	4	4	4	3	A	4	3	4		3	3
	B	4	1	3	4	3	3	B	4	1	3		3	3
	C	4	1	3	4	4	3	C	4	1	3		2	3
	D							D						

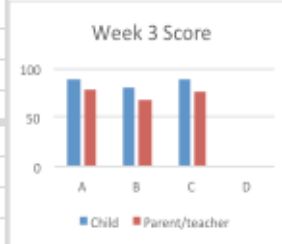
Goals	
A	If children try to get my attention, I ignore them
B	I keep focusing on my work
C	I work quietly and neatly
D	

Remarks	
	If something is bothering me, I go to the teacher.

Uitleg van de score

- 1 It doesn't go well yet
- 2 Sometimes it is going well
- 3 Most of the time it goes well
- 4 It goes really well!

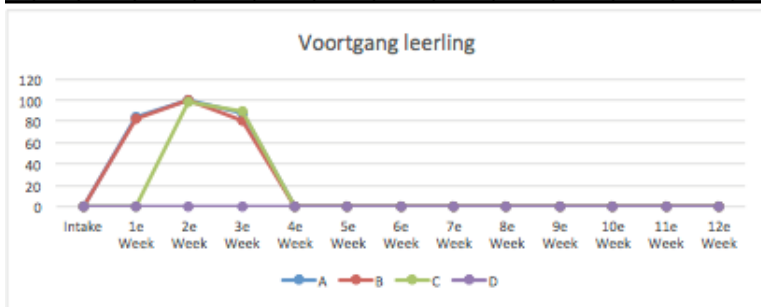
		Day mean		Week 3 Score		
		Child	Parent	Goal	Child	Parent/teacher
Monday	A	3,8	3,8	A	88	78
	B	3,5	2,7	B	81	68
	C	3,5	3,0	C	89	76
	D			D		
Tuesday	A	4,0	4,0			
	B	4,0	4,0			
	C	4,0	4,0			
	D					
Wednesday	A	3,0	3,0			
	B	3,0	3,0			
	C	4,0	4,0			
	D					
Thursday	A	3,7	2,5			
	B	3,7	2,8			
	C	3,7	2,8			
	D					
Friday	A	3,7	3,4			
	B	3,0	2,8			
	C	3,2	2,6			
	D					



Results Question 1: What is the Impulsclass?

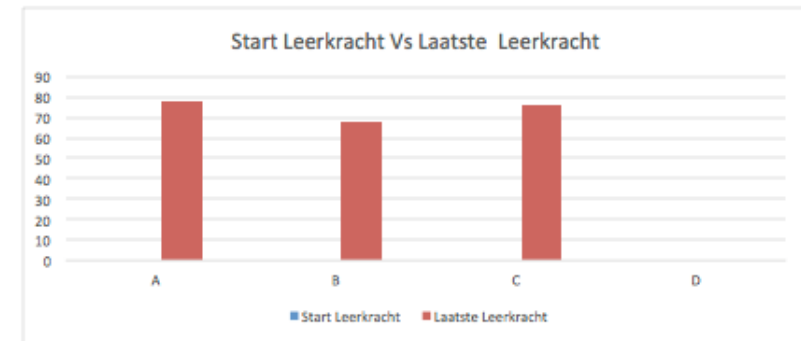
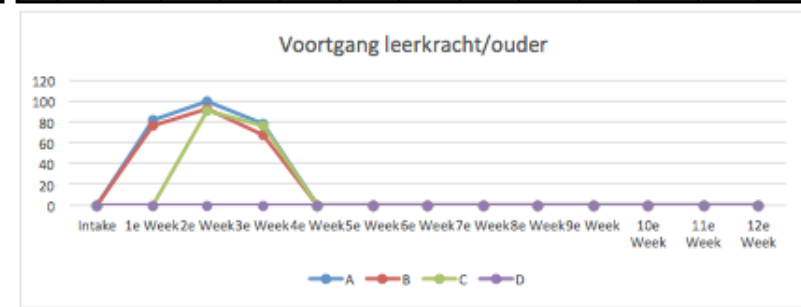
DE IMPULS KLAS Aan de slag met gedrag! DEZE KANNT IS VRIJ 0

Leerling													
Doel	Intake	1e Week	2e Week	3e Week	4e Week	5e Week	6e Week	7e Week	8e Week	9e Week	10e Week	11e Week	12e Week
A		84	100	88									
B		82	100	81									
C			98	89									
D													



DE IMPULS KLAS Aan de slag met gedrag! DEZE KANNT IS VRIJ 0

Leerkracht/Ouder													
Doel	Intake	1e Week	2e Week	3e Week	4e Week	5e Week	6e Week	7e Week	8e Week	9e Week	10e Week	11e Week	12e Week
A		82	100	78									
B		76	93	68									
C			91	76									
D													



Results Question 1: What is the Impulsclass?

Which children attend the Impulsclass?

- Problems with their attitude towards schoolwork - concentration, sitting still, listening to orders and instructions
- Mostly boys
- Background in behavioural problems/disorders (ADHD, Autisme, ODD).
- Children from divorced parents
- Age: 8 – 13

Results Question 2: What are the first results of the Impulsclass?

Child:

- Ability to ignore other distracting children
- Gain in confidence & motivation
- Better focus
- Sometimes better grades
- Responsibility of own behaviour

Parents:

- Better understanding of child's behaviour in the classroom
- Better ideas of how to deal with the child's behaviour at home
- Feeling of being understood
- Regained positive view of their child & school

Teachers:

- Better understanding of how to deal with the child in the classroom
- Better communication with parents
- Regained positive view of the child



Results Question 3: Improvement of the Impulsclass

- Not all teacher fill in the scoring goal card



- Some goals for the children were not concrete enough or some are too concrete
- Teachers would like to hear more about:
 - What is discussed between Impulsclass teachers and parents
 - How the Impulsclass teachers reflect with the children on their goals.
- How do we sustain the effects after the 12 weeks?

Conclusions for inclusive education

Conclusions for inclusive education

- Impulsclass is a promising concept for challenges the Dutch face in providing inclusive education
- Being a Impulsclass teacher is not for all teachers. Experience and knowledge about special educational needs is required.
- More research should be done to get more sight on long term benefits of Impulsclass



Conclusions for teacher education programs

Conclusions for teacher education programs

- Make students aware of these innovative programs
- Work on the teachers vision of the educational ability of the parents (Cutler, 2000; Epstein, 1987; Henderson, 1988 & Smit, Sluiter & Driessen, 2006).
- The solution focused approach and high level of parental involvement is appreciated in the field....
- and should be taught in schools and teacher education programs
- More dialogue between teachers and parents is needed (Senge, 1995; Isaacs, 1999)



Thank you for your attention

Quote from a father:

Working together with my child on goals which are realistic. As a parent, it gives you a lot of tools to deal with difficult situations. Also you participate in a group of children and parents who deal with the same circumstances. You really do learn from each other. My daughter goes in the right direction with big jumps. She likes it to work together with mum and dad. It gives her confidence in herself.

Quote from a child:

I feel great here, it is save and I can work really good with John (other child).

