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Implementation of the Home-Start Toolkit

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Implementation of the Home-Start Toolkit

Introduction

In the Netherlands, Home-Start is described along 4 principles:

- Needs-oriented support
- Focus on empowerment
- Trust and equality
- Gift of time

The Applied University of Amsterdam and Home-Start Nederland developed a toolkit to support volunteers in applying these principles. The toolkit consists of conversation cards, a poster and a worksheet. The toolkit was shared with all Dutch Home-Start coordinators in the fall of 2023. During spring 2024 a pilot evaluation and implementation study was conducted.

Research questions:

- What factors affected the likelihood of using the toolkit?
- What were the experiences of coordinators when using the toolkit?

Method

- 9 interviews with coordinators who had used the one or more elements of the toolkit at least once
- Alle coordinators were women
- They worked an average of 3.5 year as a coordinator (0.5 – 8 year)
- Interviews were conducted using the MIDI model (Fleuren et al., 2014)

Results

	Benefits cards for coordinators		Benefits cards for volunteers
	More dynamic and **interactive** conversations between volunteers.		Offers volunteers **insight** into themselves and their **value** to the family.
	Flexible; can be used in different ways.		Provides **repetition** of the principles.
	Facilitates a more **equal conversation** between volunteers.		Gives a **positive** feeling.

Recommendations for promoting the use of the toolkit

Share the advantages of using the toolkit with coordinators

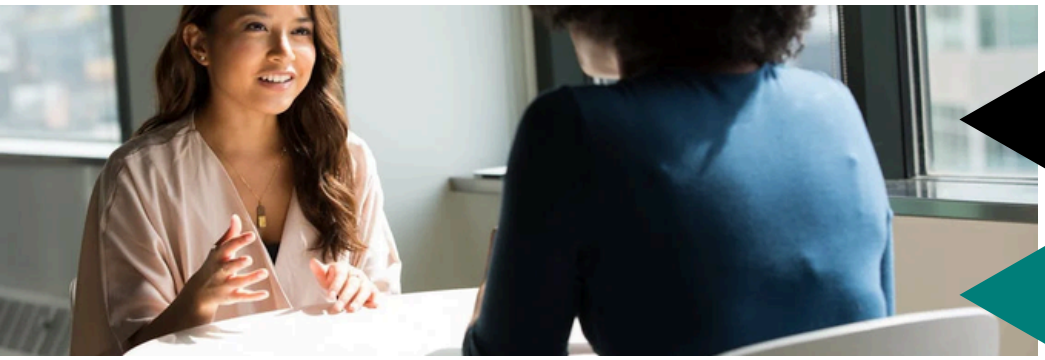
Inform volunteers about the advantages of the toolkit and evaluate it together

Create one place were all the information about the toolkit can be found

Share **tips** and **experiences** in meetings and newsletters

Make **discussion** of the toolkit an integral part of meetings between **coordinators**

Use **ambassadors** to promote the toolkit



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