

To the parents/caregivers of Zonova childcare

Amsterdam, 08-02-2026

Subject: Indoor play sand possibly contaminated | Measures taken

Dear parents and caregivers,

Recent media reports have mentioned the possible presence of asbestos in certain types of play and craft sand. With this letter, we would like to inform you how we are handling this situation at our locations.

Research has shown that asbestos fibres have been found in a number of products containing so-called loose play or craft sand. This concerns sand used in, for example, sand tables or toys used for making sand drawings. This does explicitly not concern sandbox sand, as this is always approved sand.

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) are currently investigating these signals. At this moment, it is still unclear whether and to what extent there are health risks. For more information: <https://www.nvwa.nl/nieuws-en-media/actuele-onderwerpen/reactie-nvwa-op-asbest-in-speelzand>

The Dutch Childcare Sector Organisation advises childcare organisations not to use play or craft sand of which the origin and composition are unknown until further notice.

What this means for our locations

At all our locations, we have immediately stopped using loose play or craft sand indoors. Any indoor play sand that is present will be removed or safely stored in sealed containers until more clarity is available. In addition, we will not purchase new play or craft sand for the time being.

We closely monitor developments and advice from the NVWA, RIVM and the sector organisation. As soon as new information becomes available, we will inform you.

If you have childcare-related questions following this message, you can contact the pedagogical professionals or the team leader at your location.

If you have questions for the NVWA, you can call 0900 0388.

Kind regards,

Enneke Ubels
Manager Kwaliteit
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