

Kid Grid®

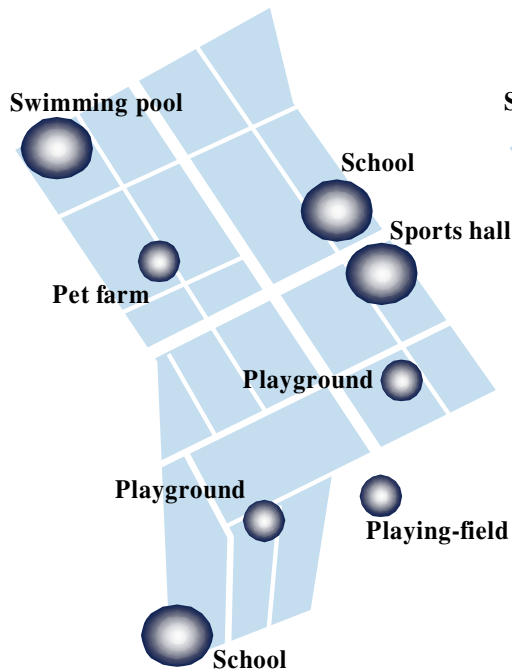
Background

Research has shown that over the last 15 or 20 years, children, both literally and figuratively, have become traffic jam victims. In urban planning terms they seem to be a forgotten group. Many playgrounds have disappeared under car parking spaces and those that remain have become less accessible due to increasing traffic.

The concentration of facilities for children, such as schools, sport centres, swimming pools, results in ever growing journey times. Children have to be brought and picked up by parents or carers, creating a vicious transport circle. Less exercise, with all its physical consequences, together with less actual contact with traffic are the result.



An 'ordinary' district



District with Kid Grid®



The Kid Grid concept

The concept "Kid Grid" stands for safe connections for children who move independently between different places, by foot or on a bicycle. Kid Grid connects places where kids can play and stay in a safe and pleasant way. Therefore the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

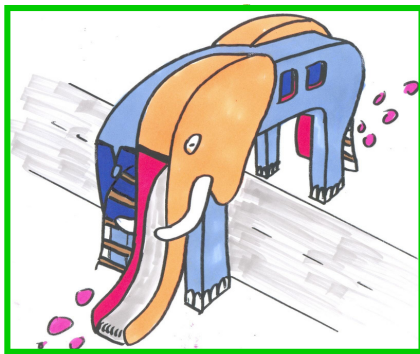
Kid Grid is custom-made

In a city, district or neighbourhood, there can always be starting points for the realization of Kid Grid. Think of the school, the playground, the community centre. SOAB makes an inventory of these places and then work out, together with the experienced users (the children!), which problems they encounter on their routes. Conversations are held with all bodies that are active in a district or neighbourhood; these are social workers, police, schools, etc. and of course the parents aren't forgotten. Finally a plan is presented, in which all aspects of Kid Grid are represented.



It deals with the following issues:

- conflict-free routes
- safe crossing places
- good visibility for and of children in traffic
- a route that is attractive for children
- a connection between facilities that are important to children
- a route that is clearly recognisable to children



Kid Grid in progress

SOAB is working on a hallmark for Kid Grid, which will guarantee its quality.

In the Netherlands, people in several locations are working on the realization of Kid Grid. Both in Amsterdam and in Delft plans are on the verge of implementation. Belgium is also showing interest.

SOAB

As a creative consultancy agency, SOAB already has several interesting concepts under its belt, in the field of traffic as well as housing.

From our office in Breda (Netherlands) we support, for example projects about "Safety for the school area (school zone)"; mobility control, bicycle parking and facility structures in the field of housing, well-being and care for people with disabilities and for the elderly.

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