babbels
Flexibele Kinderopvang

Internal complaint Procedure

2026



Table of Content

Steps for Submitting a complaint 3
Submitting an internal complaint 4
Handling an internal complaint 5
From an internal complaint to an external complaint 5
Assistance 6
Confidentiality 6
Complaint report 6
Definitions 8

Introduction

At Babbels, we are committed to providing the best childcare every day. We believe this can only be achieved through collaboration with parents, with a focus on open communication and sharing experiences. However, things can go wrong sometimes. Complaints or signs of dissatisfaction offer valuable insights that help us improve our services.

Babbels conducts a quarterly analysis of officially recorded complaints. The results are discussed internally to identify trends and recurring issues. If necessary, improvement measures are identified and implemented based on these insights, with the goal of continuously improving the quality of care and services.

If you, as a parent (or external stakeholder), are dissatisfied with something, we would greatly appreciate it if you would discuss this as soon as possible with the person who is or was involved. If it concerns a situation in the group, this is often the pedagogical professional or the location manager. If it concerns a contract or terms and conditions, this will be an employee of the service bureau. If you cannot resolve the issue together or are not satisfied with the solution, you can file an internal complaint with our complaints officer.

In this complaints procedure, we describe our approach to handling and recording complaints from parents. The procedure complies with the requirements of the Childcare Act, Articles 1.57b and 1.57c.

Steps for Submitting a complaint

Step 1:
Discuss the complaint with the person(s) involved

First, discuss the complaint with the person(s) involved, such as an educational professional, the site manager, the Parent Committee, or a service bureau employee.

- Resolved together? Complaint resolved.
- Didn't solve it together? Move on to step 2.

Step 2:
File a formal complaint with the complaints officer (internal)

Submit a **formal** complaint in writing to the complaints officer at **klachten@kinderopvangbabbels.nl**. The complaint will be officially recorded, processed, and included in the annual complaints report.

- Resolved internally? Complaint resolved.
- Not resolved internally? Proceed to step 3.

Step 3:
Contact the Child Care Complaints Office (klachtenloket) (external)

Contact the Child Care Complaints Office for free information, advice, and mediation regarding your complaint.

- Resolved through mediation? Complaint resolved.
- Not resolved through mediation? Proceed to step 4.

Step 4:
File a complaint with the Child Care Disputes Committee (external)

File a complaint with the Child Care Dispute Resolution Committee (geschillencommissie). They will issue a binding ruling for both the complainant and the organization.
In exceptional cases, a complaint may be filed directly with the Dispute Resolution Committee; for more information, see the section titled “From an Internal to an External Complaint.”

Submitting an internal complaint

You can submit a complaint to us regarding:

- The behavior of the organization, an employee, a child, a parent or another adult toward a parent or child;
- A procedure, policy, provision or facility within the childcare organization;
- The agreement between the organization and the parent(s).

We ask that you do this in writing. This allows us to properly record the complaints we receive, seek solutions, and improve our quality.

Do not wait too long to file a complaint. We ask that you submit your complaint, preferably within six weeks of the issue arising. We will also consider complaints submitted later, unless an investigation is no longer reasonably possible as a result. The sooner you file the complaint with us, the better we can investigate and assess it.

The components of a complaint

The complaint must include the following information:

- The date you submit the complaint
- Your name, address, and phone number
- The name of the employee if the complaint concerns this employee's conduct
- The childcare location and, if applicable, the group to which the complaint relates
- A description of the complaint

You can submit the complaint to the complaints officer at Babbels. This can be done via email (klachten@kinderopvangbabbels.nl). The complaints officer is the Policy & Quality staff member of the organization. There are several complaints officers working within the organization. This ensures that complaints can always be handled independently. If a complaint concerns an complaints officer, another complaints officer will take over the oversight of the process and the registration of the complaint. In this way, we ensure that every complaint is handled carefully and objectively.

Child Abuse and inappropriate behavior Reporting Procedure for Childcare Facilities (meldcode)

If you have a complaint regarding suspected child abuse or inappropriate behavior, we are legally required to follow the Child Abuse and inappropriate behavior Reporting Procedure for Childcare (meldcode). It is possible that the necessary steps outlined in the reporting procedure have been followed, yet you still have a complaint regarding behavior, practices, and/or the agreement. In that case, you may still file an internal complaint through this complaints procedure.

Handling an internal complaint

The complaints officer will confirm within 1 business day in writing that your complaint has been received, monitor the process, and ensure that the complaint is properly recorded. We do our utmost to handle the complaint as quickly and effectively as possible. Our goal is to resolve the complaint within six weeks. If circumstances prevent this, the complaints officer will notify the complainant as soon as possible.

Babbels will keep the complainant informed in writing of the progress of the complaint at least every 10 business days.

Babbels ensures that every complaint is thoroughly investigated and resolved. The process depends on the nature and substance of the complaint. Possible steps include hearing from all parties involved (hearing both sides of the story), identifying the applicable policies, and assessing how those policies are implemented in practice in relation to the complaint.

If the complaint concerns an employee's behavior, that employee will be given the opportunity to respond either verbally or in writing.

The complainant will receive a written and reasoned decision regarding the complaint from Babbels. This decision will include at least the following:

- Whether the complaint is valid, invalid, or partially valid;
- The reasons why Babbels reached this decision;
- If the complaint and the decision warrant it: what measures Babbels will take and within what timeframe they will be implemented.

From an internal complaint to an external complaint

If the complaint is not resolved to the complainant's satisfaction through the internal complaint procedure, the complainant may contact the Childcare Complaints Desk. This desk offers free information, advice, and mediation. For this purpose, Babbels follows the external complaint procedure.

If mediation through the Childcare Complaints Desk does not lead to a resolution, the complainant may submit the case to the Childcare Disputes Committee. The Disputes Committee will review the complaint and issue a binding decision for both parties.

In certain situations, the complainant may file a complaint directly with the Childcare Disputes Committee without first going through Babbels' internal complaint procedure:

- When they cannot reasonably be expected to file the complaint with Babbels. This applies in situations where the person responsible for assessing the complaint is themselves a party to the complaint, which hinders independent resolution.
- When no assessment of the complaint has been received within the specified time frame—as described in Babbels' complaints procedure.

The Childcare Disputes Committee will only consider complaints within 12 months of the complainants submission of the complaint to Babbels.

The Disputes Committee issues a binding ruling that the complainant and Babbels must comply with. The Disputes Committee also monitors compliance.

Assistance

The person filing a complaint has the right to be assisted or represented by one or more persons of their own choosing. This could be, for example, a family member, a trusted advisor, or a legal advisor. If there is a language barrier, the complainant may be assisted by an interpreter or a family member.

The costs of any assistance or representation are the responsibility of the complainant, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the organization.

Confidentiality

All persons involved in handling the complaint (such as complaints officers, employees, and other parties involved) are required to maintain confidentiality regarding all information and personal data that become known during the handling of the complaint. This applies to all information whose confidential nature is known or can reasonably be presumed. This obligation also continues after the complaints procedure has been completed.

Complaint report

If any complaints have been filed, <LABEL NAME> prepares a complaint report for each calendar year in question. This report is sent to the GGD supervisory authority by June 1 of the following calendar year. Babbels uploads the complaint report to the parent portal at the same time and also brings the complaint report to the parents' attention in an appropriate manner.. In addition, the organization discusses the report with the parent committee.

This report must include at least the following information:

- A brief description of the complaints procedure;
- How the complaints procedure has been brought to the attention of parents;
- The number and nature of complaints handled per location;
- The substance of the decisions and the nature of the measures taken per location;
- The number and nature of disputes handled by the Childcare Disputes Committee.

In the report, assessments of complaints cannot be traced back to complainants, employees, or other individuals, except when the organization (a legal entity) itself is involved. The organization's address is not included in the report. Complaint files are not retained for longer than is necessary for the purpose of handling the complaint and in accordance with the organization's current retention policy.

If no complaints are filed in a calendar year, Babbels does not prepare a report, the parent committee will be notified of this.

Definitions

Organization	Babbels
Complaint	A formal, written expression of dissatisfaction that has not been or cannot be resolved through informal consultation.
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or external party	The blood relative or relative by marriage in the ascending line, or the foster parent of a child who uses or has used childcare services at Wherever the term “parent” appears in this document, it may also be read as “guardian.” An external party may also file a complaint.
Parent committee	The committee as referred to in Article 1.58 of the Childcare Act.
Organization	The person who owns the business, as defined in the 2007 Commercial Register Act, and who operates a childcare center or a childminding agency through that business.
Submitter	The parent, external parties, or parent committee filing a complaint.
Employee	The organization (a natural person), individuals employed by the organization, or individuals working through the organization (e.g., temporary workers, the physical education teacher, etc.).
Complaints officer	The employee who receives complaints and oversees the procedure.
Location manager	The person in charge of the facility where the child is placed and/or the person against whom the complaint is filed.
Child Care Complaints Desk	Part of the Child Care Disputes Committee, where parents, parent committees, and child care organizations can turn for information, advice, and mediation.
Dispute Resolution Committee	A committee recognized by the Ministry of Security and Justice for resolving disputes. Its decisions are binding.
In writing	A letter sent by mail or electronically, such as an email.
Agreement	The contract and the accompanying (supplementary) terms and conditions.