

My story



Ameli Dominik, teacher, Studiekring, the Netherlands

Ameli Dominik has a Master's degree in Orthopedagogical Sciences. Her study has helped her understand that intrinsic motivation, a calm and nurturing home environment and collaboration between parents, teachers, students and helpers is the best guarantee for a student's success. That means that there is always room for improvement. She uses this knowledge to approach every student individually, but with an equally positive outlook on their future. In addition to working for Studiekring, Ameli Dominik works as a researcher and teacher of Child Abuse prevention at Utrecht University. This difficult but rewarding subject is part of her inclination to create a safe and nurturing environment for children of all ages, so they grow up with as many options in life as possible. This, of course, is also the main object of her work for Studiekring.

See [my video here](#).

What was my challenge in the classroom?

In the home work institute I find many demotivated students that are feeling overwhelmed, frustrated with school and who are struggling with their homework. Not only in school but also at home a lot of discussion on not finishing their homework. Students that come to my institute are usually at the end of their possibilities. My challenge is to motivate them again and help them see that school is very doable and make them feel they can do it themselves and can be in control of their homework and in this way motivate them.

From whom I received help/I turned to help?

The tutoring I do by myself and I work with the help of the Studiekring organisation and my colleagues there. They help me think about the possibilities for the different students. We work together with schools, teachers and parents. I see that it is very important to include the whole system around the student. I feel it is very important to work together with the environment of all people involved. So I talk to the school and the parents and the students. By working together the students feels supported and motivated and school become less overwhelming.

What happened then?

Because of the above mentioned way of working the students feels motivated and supported and feels that school is less overwhelming and students start realising that school is manageable. Also the situation at home environment gets much more positive and improves because of less discussion over homework and the students have to worry less and experience more free time as well. It motivates the student to start working again for school since the students feels more in control of the situation in school and start to enjoy school and build up their confidence.

Lessons learnt, what do I want to share with others?

The best way possible to motivate your students and to prevent them from dropping out of school is to involve the students in the process and make sure they feel they are in control of the situation and that they are achieving something.

What I really like to see is when the students start to realising that it is happening and they are really getting better in school and in planning and passing a test and or a grade and see their confidence grow, it is the greatest thing to experience in my job.