

Caring connections

Intimate portraits capture the everyday power of family and community life in the Netherlands

Isolde Woudstra

Photographer

Utrecht, Netherlands

These photos are an ode to the joy and mess of raising children. Through these images, I sought to celebrate the seemingly small and fleeting physical gestures that help all people, old and young, feel part of something bigger.

They're a tender and honest glimpse into our most intimate relationships, bonds woven from care, love,

and ordinary moments. Together, they tell a story of shared lives, of hands reaching out, and unspoken trust.

While looking through the viewfinder of my camera during these photo shoots, I felt so honoured to have been granted the permission to bear witness to these deeply personal and private moments.





Morning moments with Paula, Thomas and their two sons



Playtime at the community
centre Mama's Garden,
Rotterdam





Evening scenes
with Ivana and
her son





➤ Find this article online at earlychildhoodmatters.online/2025-25