

**HOW THE OFFERINGS OF THE CITY SERVICES TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
THE TIME SPENT AT WORK BY FAMILIES**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Nantes is a city of two hundred and seventy five thousand inhabitants with thirty five thousand families. One out of four has only one parent, two out of ten have three children or more.

Through a national inquiry in two thousand and three, sixty seven per cent of the families answered they preferred an assistance in kind such as fittings or services rather than money allowances.

In my address I would like to set out shortly the various aspects of the city policy which takes into account the time spent at work by families. I will develop this subject in the chronological order of a life.

The city has altered the opening hours of the town halls (central and annex town halls) by opening on Saturday mornings so that the services are more accessible. It has also placed a registry office at people's disposal in the two maternity hospitals of the city. It has created a single phone number for all the information and the town services, operating from eight a.m. to seven p.m. and from eight a.m. to one p.m. on Saturdays.

The city of Nantes – and all its eleven districts - has offered various possibilities of welcome in collective structures in its offer to help families with young children.

All the town and associative welcome centres for young children can accommodate children from zero to four years old for one hour exceptionally to twelve hours every day from Monday to Friday from seven thirty a.m. to seven p.m. Two thousand eight hundred and sixty five children can be welcomed in the fittings. A family would pay between zero point thirty three euros and two point fifty nine euros an hour.

We should add that one thousand eight hundred and thirty nursery assistants are also available.

Parents who start working at early or late hours can use non-municipal welcome centres (associative, CHU , CAF) which are also open five days a week from six thirty a.m. to nine p.m..

An associative fitting in a very important commercial area has been specifically created: it is supported by some firms which are set up there and is also open on Saturdays.

A year ago the city of Nantes became a party to an agreement with an association of workers in private houses to look after brothers and sisters at their parents' home – with at least one child under four years old- very early in the morning or very late at night. This plan of action is more especially used for families with parents being socially disturbed and who find a job again after having been unemployed. In Nantes, it is especially jobs in the hotel trade, in restaurants, cleaning or market gardening.

Besides, thanks to the city of Nantes, children of two or three can go to nursery schools in districts of social lodgings.

The education department of the city of Nantes has opened welcome points beside the school time in all the one hundred and eighteen public schools –nursery and junior- of the city. That is to say children can be welcomed one hour before the school opens and until six thirty p.m. in the evening. This welcome has an all-in price, according to a family quota, from zero point twenty three euros to four point thirty eight euros for one of the two periods, morning or evening.

It is also possible to have a midday catering in all schools.

These periods beside the school time are flanked by coordinators, who belong to an association with which the city has entered into an agreement.

The city has signed a delegation of public service with an association for educative, social and cultural activities for young people between three and eighteen years old during Wednesdays and school holidays. This association organizes days in socio-cultural centres and also week stays outside Nantes during the school holidays.

The city has helped to put a single booking office in position to register for a social accommodation.

As far as the sports, cultural and spare time activities are concerned, the city places sports grounds at the disposal of everyone in free access, which means that it is not necessary to be a club member to come and play football, skate-board, volleyball or basketball for instance.

The city helps families to find their way about one thousand three hundred spare-time associations by editing a guide of the associations in each district. This guide can also be consulted on line on the Internet site of the city : <http://www.nantes.fr/ville/quartiers/nord/>

The city increases the number of local libraries (ten to date, including one specialized in art books). They are open from Monday to Saturday. It also increases the street or free entertainments (you may have heard of the Giants of Royal de Luxe, it is only one example among many others).

These are examples of family practice. They do not aim at making the life of parents who work easier. That is why this is the end of my speech.