FIRST 1000 DAYS TRAINING
From conception to 2 years is a vital time of development in a child's life. We offered two 4-day workshops for pregnant women, parents and créche workers caring for young children from birth to 2 years to ensure optimal nutrition, holistic development and stimulation.
“Building a foundation for Life.”
◆ 34 attendees from 29 ECD centres

BASIC EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
Comprehensive, practical and relevant training in ECD for pre-school teachers and unemployed women. Here we focus on child development, the value of sensory-motor play, importance of nutrition, hygiene, safety and exploring creative activities from waste.
◆ 9 x 5-day courses ◆ 117 attendees ◆ 74 teachers from 45 ECD centres ◆ 39 unemployed

ADVANCED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
Training once a week for 7 weeks aimed at enabling teachers to apply a holistic ECD program within their centres and allowing Masikhule to monitor their performance and offer support. Training included input from Physifun, a gross motor development program, developing values & life skills through Persona Doll, positive behaviour modification by our specialist Psychologist, and optimal nutrition in the early years by a Dietitian.
◆ 46 teachers from 17 ECD centres trained ◆ 17 ECD Resource Kits supplied

TEACHER ENRICHMENT WORKSHOPS (TEW)
A series of regular, focussed and specialised 1-day workshops for teachers by an Occupational Therapist in response to specific developmental and learning needs identified through screening assessments.
◆ 9 workshops ◆ 34 teachers from 25 ECD centres ◆ TEW Resource / Educational Kits per session

We know from experience that training in isolation is rarely successful. Mentorship forms the vital link between skills training and successful implementation. Masikhule provides this service to over 30 centres situated within the Helderberg region. We encourage independence and sustainability, working together to ensure ECD Centres are registered, well-managed and well-equipped, and having qualified, dedicated staff with a varied and holistic ECD Programme in place.
◆ 30 ECD centres developed and mentored ◆ Over 2000 children from birth to 6 years reached through Masikhule ECD programs ◆ >780 the number of mentorship visits

Our Teacher Early Learning Resource Library (ELRL) had 18 ECD centres as active members. The teachers have access to: teacher and classroom resources which include theme packs, resource books, classroom visual aids and equipment, age-appropriate educational toys, games and books.
◆ 18 ECD centres made use of resources ◆ 140 visits ◆ 270 resource packs loaned
Masikhule partnered with donors to undertake big and small infrastructural and resource improvement projects at all 30 Early Learning Centres. These improvements included providing necessary items such as kitchen appliances, classroom and office furniture, stationery, computer and printing equipment, playground and educational play equipment. We reached our goal of ensuring each centre has a Reading Corner installed with age- and language-appropriate books.
◆ 16 reading corners ◆ >1000 age- and language-appropriate books delivered

Training principals to enable them to successfully manage sustainable ECD businesses through gaining skills in business management, financial management, time management, leadership skills, governance and human resources.
◆ 15 Principals ◆ 15 Office Resource Kits provided ◆ 45 Mentorship visits

Thanks to JAM-SA, we have 12 ECD Centers receiving fortified breakfast porridge – providing children with 75% of their daily nutritional requirements. We plan to launch Best Nutrition Workshops for ECD cooks in March 2017 to ensure best menu and meal preparation practices at the Centers.
◆ 560 children receiving fortified porridge daily
Thank You!

We are grateful to our established and new partners, donors and supporters for entrusting us at Masikhule to provide a service to women and children from the disadvantaged communities of the Helderberg and surrounding areas, and trust that our partnerships will continue to broaden, grow and develop. Thank you for each and every donation (whether monetary, time spent or in kind) however big or small. Our donors and contributors in no particular order:

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- Simonsig Wine Estate
- Joostenberg Wine Estate
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- Family and Friends
In 2005 we started out as a small organisation with big and ambitious dreams. Our vision to uplift, upskill, empower and change communities continues on its upward trajectory and we are even more determined to make a difference through the power of relationships built on trust and respect.

Through our training and mentorship programs, we have built solid relationships within the communities we serve and realise that true empowerment comes from a belief in one’s capacity, one’s value and the confidence to pursue one’s dreams and goals. We believe the ECD centres we work with are truly being empowered, enabled and emboldened. One teacher recently said: “I am no longer the boss of my centre, I am a leader!”

Although there is still much to do, we are confident that many young children in our local communities do indeed have a better start in life, as they are exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences that are planned, prepared and taught by teachers who are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, insightful and motivated.

We are very proud of the many programs we have on offer and projects we manage on a very limited budget. The establishment of our Teacher Early Learning Resource Library has made a significant difference in the successful implementation of teaching and learning programs at the ECD centres, and the enthusiasm from the teachers has been inspiring.

We are excited about our new plans for the 2017-18 year which will include Best Nutrition training for ECD centre cooks, further development of our Barriers to Learning programs and welcoming another Occupational Therapist on board to mentor this project, thanks to a sizeable grant from Rotary International.

The NPO world is a challenging, ever-changing but highly rewarding field of service and I am indebted to the amazing Masikhule team for their passion and dedication. Thank you Nadia Kamies, Greet de Wulf and Garth Japhet, our specialist Advisory Board Members, for your support and guidance.

“We make a living from what we get. We make a life from what we give”. – Churchill

Léanne Keet