The sterling work of those shaping the future leaders of the basin was recognised at the annual Masikhule Top 6 Awards.

Principals, teachers and early childhood development centres (ECDs) affiliated to Masikhule were honoured for the commitment and determination they showed towards the education of little ones throughout the year at Sage and Thyme coffee shop in Somerset West last month.

Said Masikhule founder Leanne Keet: “Within the ECD field there is no time for mediocrity and, through our training and mentorship programmes, we have seen preschool teachers and principals grow, develop and be truly empowered. The challenges these educators face are often extreme, but their commitment and dedication to ensure all children have access to quality ECD programmes is what sets them apart.”

For more information about Masikhule’s work, visit www.masikhule.org.

The Apple Trophy for the best ECD programme for 3 to 5-year-olds was awarded to Gaironegia Visagie and Ronel Paulsen of Playway Pre-primary. From left are Karen Buß (Masikhule trainer and mentor), Gaironegia Visagie, Roselyne Arendse (Playway Pre-primary principal) and Ronel Paulsen.

The most promising newcomer award went to Kunmandi Educare. From left are Karen Buß, Estella Cookson (principal), Margaret Poole and Ashlene Gysman.

The Vlok Family Trophy for library member of the year went to Bundles of Joy; the award was handed to Iise Jacobs, Mary Wales (principal) and Robin Wales by Jeanine Andro.