"If you are planning for a year, sow rice. If you are planning for a decade, plant trees. If you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." - Chinese Proverb

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Masikhule’s 2020 has started on such a positive note and we as a team are feeling upbeat, positive and inspired to continue to do even more in/for Early Childhood Development.
Our 5 pillars of service have changed a little to incorporate our newer programmes and this is a sure sign that we are living up to our name, which means ‘we are growing’.

Our Early Intervention Programme had such extraordinary results and we look forward to sharing these with you. Our new Curriculum Programme is in full swing and the ECD educators are finding the learning programme incredibly beneficial, not only to them as educators, but the children too are benefitting significantly from this first-class programme.

We are ever mindful of the fact that we cannot work in isolation and so we thank you all for walking the journey with us.

Best wishes from Léanne

MASIKHULE means “We are growing”

2019 saw the beginning of two exciting new projects - our Early Intervention programme funded by DGMT, and our ECD Curriculum programme funded by Kiewitfonds, Simon Farr, Peri Batliwala and Apple Tool and Gas.

We are immensely grateful for these generous donations - making it possible to continue to roll these programmes out over this year and the next.

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Our Early Intervention programme has been specifically designed to ensure all children reach their milestones and have access to quality early education, learning and play opportunities. Our pilot year was 2019 and involved Teaching Enrichment Workshops (TEWs), mentoring and support; the monitoring of 100 four to five year olds; group Occupational Therapy and access to educational material through our ECD Resource Library. The results were phenomenal!

In a nutshell, only 24% of the children we screened in February/March last year were performing according to early learning and developmental expectations. After 8
months of our Early Intervention programme, the results showed a remarkable improvement. Our end-of-year data shows that 78% of these same children were now competent in a variety of areas of development, and ready for the next stage of their young lives. These results are extremely encouraging and prove that with training, guidance, support and access to resources, children can reach their potential and enter formal schooling well prepared, with confidence and independence.

Remarkable improvements seen in the Draw-a-Man test; a test of body concept, drawing skills, visual perception, and more.

Drawing skills and Visual Motor Integration saw very positive results.
Above pencil grip pics: there was a great improvement in the quality of pencil grip and control.

We are feeling incredibly encouraged and are delighted with these tangible results and are very excited about implementing a further year of this (thanks to another very welcome grant from our partners in this - DGMT) - with three test groups this time: children whose educators are not attending our TEWs, children whose educators are attending our TEWs and, finally, children whose educators are attending our TEWs plus receiving OT group therapy sessions.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMME
(Apple Tool and Gas; Kiewitfonds; Simon Farr and Peri Batiwala)

South Africa and the Department or Social Development have developed a National Curriculum Framework which acts as a guide for those working with children from birth to 5 years of age. However, it is just a guide, and after 15 years of practice and experience, we have found that a formalised and structured curriculum is necessary to ensure that children reach their developmental and learning milestones in the most holistic, practical and effective manner.
To accomplish this, we have spent 2019 developing the different themes for our ECD Curriculum programme, and have just started to roll it out. Full implementation will happen over a three year period and will include the following: themes and daily program content; weekly training and mentorship of community-based ECD educators (four initially - increasing the numbers on the program every 6 months); the provision of theme bags filled with theme-based resources, educational games, books and toys to compliment each theme and to ensure a fun, interactive, varied and holistic learning programme. We will initially target the 3 to 4 year olds, but will increase our reach to include all ages from 3 months to 5 years by the end of the period.

MASIKHULE ECD TRAINING 2020

We held our annual Information Sharing Meeting for 2020 in January to share our goals and plans for the year with over 50 Early Childhood Development (ECD) principals and educators. We believe it is essential that children enter formal school well prepared, independent and with learning competencies – so this meeting is held at the beginning of each year to establish and maintain our ongoing partnerships with the principals of the Early Learning Centres we work with and mentor, in order to achieve these outcomes.

These Early Learning Centres educate and nurture over 2 000 children from 0 - 6 years in marginalised communities from Macassar through to Sir Lowry's Pass Village. The women who run them have attended many of the Masikhule training courses, as have their staff, and they have been mentored by Masikhule over the years. Our common goal is to strive towards their pre-schools being centres of excellence and registered with the Department of Social Development.

This year Masikhule will be offering the following ECD Training for women from impoverished communities of the Helderberg:
- Baby and Toddler Training Course (First 1 000 Days)
- ECD Educator Training Course (for educators and volunteers in Early Learning Centres)
- Advanced ECD Educator Training Course (for educators who wish to continue training)
- Teaching Enrichment Workshops (for senior educators and principals)
- Best Nutrition Workshop (for cooks in these centres)
- ECD Business Management (for principals).

See our website for more details, the course schedule and how to book: http://masikhule.org/training-courses/

WANT TO SAVE ON TAX? GIVE TO MASIKHULE!

Did you know, that if you donate an amount to Masikhule, you can receive a beneficial tax deduction for it as we are a registered NPO and PBO?

This is an effective incentive by SARS as it not only reduces your own tax liability, but it is for the benefit of us - an organisation which you firmly believe in and wish to support.

The amount deducted from your taxable income is limited to an amount of 10% of your taxable income. When you submit your income tax return, you simply declare what donations you made to us during the year of assessment. We will supply you with a section 18 A donation certificate, on request, for you to furnish to SARS.

In order to supply this, we will need:

• The date of the payment of the donation
• The name and address of the donee- i.e. the person who made the donation to the public benefit organisation
• The amount of the donation made (note that the donation need not be in cash but needs to have an ascertainable monetary value).

So, as the financial year-end is nearing, perhaps you should do some effective tax planning and consider donating to Masikhule.

Email details of donation (or any queries) to: info@masikhule.org

Here are our banking details: http://masikhule.org/ways-to-give/ ... and thank you for your support!

MySCHOOL MyVILLAGE MyPLANET
Make Every Swipe Count!

With the start of the new year it is time to assess many things - one of them may well be your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet beneficiary. If your child has left their school for example - perhaps you might update your beneficiary to Masikhule Child. Or add us as a beneficiary (you can have up to 3).

If you would like to make changes (or get a MySchool card if you do not already have one)
please click here: http://masikhule.org/ways-to-give/#myschool_card

We really value the monthly donation we receive through this!

SnapScan
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Make instant, secure payments with SnapScan.
Simply download the app on your smartphone and register to scan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
We look forward to a successful 2020 together!

WAYS TO GIVE

Masikhule makes a positive contribution to the upliftment of communities through skills training, mentorship and capacity building in the field of Early Childhood Development.

WHAT WE DO  TRAINING  DONATE

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