



Quality Early Childhood Development for EVERY CHILD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 March 2021 – 28 February 2022



Word From Greet De Wulf, Advisory Board Chairperson

Dear Masikhule supporter

It has been such a pleasure and honour to be the chairperson of the Masikhule Advisory Board. Every year just as I think it cannot get much better than this, the team comes up with another bright idea - always mindful of the needs of the schools, the educators and the children and taking into account the situation at that moment.

I want to applaud them for the way they have handled the Covid crisis. They ensured that even during the hard lockdown, children at home had access to stimulating activities through social media. It was however so good to know that the ECD Centres mentored by Masikhule were of the first to open up again and ensured that the children received the much-needed quality education. The Covid crisis also helped them to reinvent themselves and a noteworthy new offering was the delivery of resource packages to ECD Centres, reaching out to many more beneficiaries than before. This service saved transport costs and time for the educators.

There is an important aspect that needs to be singled out: Covid had a major impact on the mental wellbeing of so many people. Masikhule acknowledged this and started a wellbeing program for the educators and principals. No educator or caregiver can give her best if she herself is not in a good space. Through the program, educators were taught skills to deal with stressful situations through meditation exercises, vision boards etc. This not only had the desired effect of creating more resilience, but also made the women feel more self-confident and pro-active. They believe more in themselves and in their capabilities and therefore dare to dream and come up with new ideas.

I commend the whole of the Masikhule team, principals and educators for their never-ending enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you for giving the children an opportunity to learn and develop themselves to their full potential.

Greet De Wulf



Masikhule Early Learning Program (ELP)

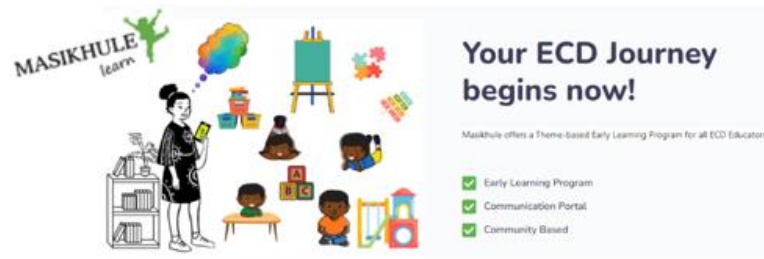
12 ECD Centres attended the Masikhule theme-based ELP training every 2 weeks throughout the year, with over 740 young children benefitting. 21 Themes were introduced, discussed and explored and the regular attendance of the educators has ensured a well-planned, purposeful, holistic and fun ELP being followed at the ECD Centres.

Results of our screening of the children and feedback from educators have been incredibly positive, with the ultimate beneficiaries of this ELP - the children - showing improvements in many areas of development. Peer support has resulted in principals being able to assist each other, share information and work together to improve overall sustainability and quality of the ECD Sector.



Masikhule Learn

Our plan to develop an online version of our ELP was born during engagements with educators and principals – and the need to make our registered ELP accessible to anyone anywhere. What started as a dream, became a reality in 2021 and from early 2022, we started adding ECD-related content to our Learn platform. What makes it unique, is that it has been developed by a team of educators and occupational therapists, with early intervention a keen focus. The theme-based ECD content continues to expand in conjunction with our ELP training, with membership and interactions growing steadily.



Toys from Waste

22 Educators attended the Waste to Toys workshop in June presented by Singakwenza. Besides this workshop, creating teaching resources, games, toys and creative art ideas from waste is a vital aspect of Masikhule's training.



Educator Wellness

Four 2-day workshops were presented to 56 educators. With Covid-19 being a time of immense anxiety and fear, we presented these workshops to assist educators with various aspects of self-care, setting goals and boundaries, communication skills, conflict handling, relaxation techniques and more. This proved yet again to be a powerful means for the women to feel encouraged, valued and heard.



First Aid Level 1

Thanks to funding from Lombard Insurance, we were able to offer Level 1 training to 60 Educators in August 2021 and supplied the ECD Centres with First Aid Kits.



ECD Mentorship

One of our core values is to ensure that training is always followed up with the necessary support, guidance and encouragement - this is the true determinant of successful implementation and integration. Our Project Managers and Occupational Therapist play a pivotal role in determining the success of our training, the implementation of our programs, the responses of the children and the needs of the Centres. We love seeing our training in action and especially to see young children having fun, developing all areas of their minds and bodies and educators feeling confident and empowered.

72 OT and 38 ELP mentorship interactions and visits to 16 ECD Centres

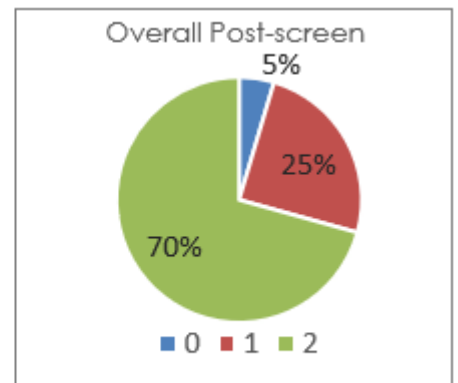
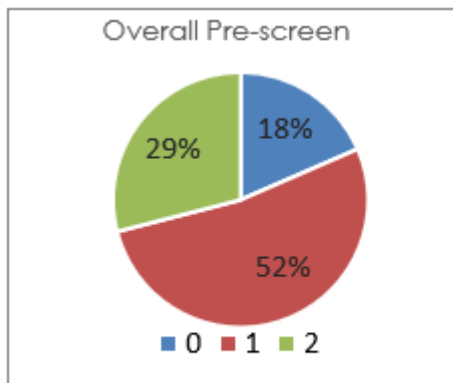


Early Intervention

Unfortunately for most children in our country, access to regular Occupational Therapy (OT) intervention is reserved for the more privileged. Thanks to funding from DGMT, we provided OT group therapy to children at 3 ECD centres. In addition to this, OT forms part of our ELP training and mentorship visits and forms part of our Masikhule Learn online program. Our regular Teacher Enrichment Workshops are based on educators gaining knowledge and insight into child development, how to identify developmental and learning delays and most importantly, how to work on those areas within the preschool setting, ensuring that all learning is inclusive.

Results of OT Intervention

A group of 20 4 to 5 year olds were screened before OT intervention and before the educators received training. In February 2021 only 29% of the children were able to perform tasks according to their age level, with over 70% either unable or failing to master these tasks. After 10 months of intervention, only 5% were not on track, with 70% of them thriving!

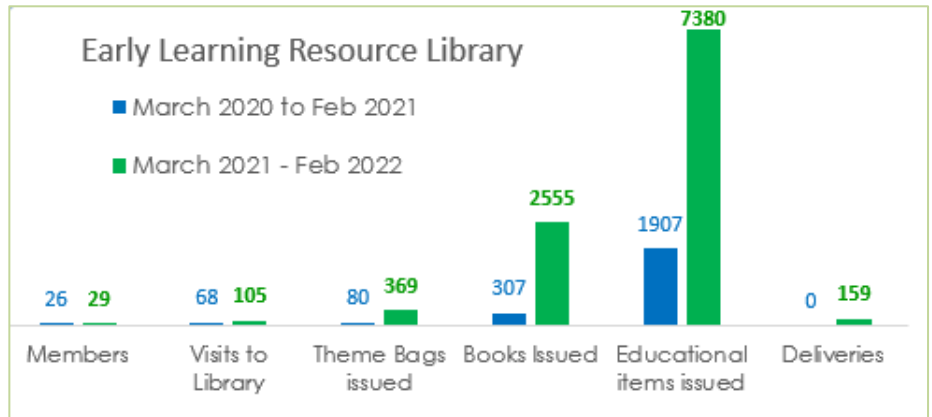


Key: 0 = unable; 1 = fair/needs attention; 2 = able/developed



ECD Resources

The Early Learning Resource Library (ELRL) has made a valuable contribution to ensure educators and children have regular access to a wide variety of quality educational games, teaching resources and theme bags. Due to Covid and on-going taxi strikes, we began offering a theme bag delivery service in August 2021, resulting in a 65% increase in resource usage.



And a few more highlights....

- We received 8 700 delightful books from BookDash (for children to take home) and 70 more from Exclusive Books for our Library.
- 5 Beautiful book nooks were installed at 5 ECD Centres.
- Blankets and Beanies kindly donated for Cast on 4 Kids were distributed to over 1000 children from 35 ECD Centres for Mandela Day in July.
- Over 280 children from 15 ECD Centres enjoyed the thrill of theatre at The Drama Factory during the year.
- After a successful fundraising drive in February 2022, we raised R50 000 and delivered stationery kits to over 50 ECD Centres.
- It was a year of receiving and supplying PPE supplies, mattresses, pots, educational games and more.



THANK YOU to all our generous donors.

Early Nutrition

Studies have shown that 1 in 4 young children in SA suffer from under-nourishment and stunted growth, which has significant and lasting effects on general development and wellbeing. Through our partnerships with JAM (now ForAfrica), Pebbles Kitchen and raising over R30 000 through our Funds 4 Food fundraising initiative in March 2021, we were able to provide almost 2000 young children with fortified breakfast and regular nutritious cooked meals in 2021. Thank you to everybody involved!

**ForAfrica sadly withdrew from our area in early 2022 and we continue to explore suitable alternatives and funding for this vital resource.*



36 ECD Centres
39 ECD Centres

64 780 cooked meals
19 300 tons porridge

1 800 children
1 950 children



ECD Registration Project

Masikhule provides a service on behalf of the Department of Social Development** to 78 Partial Care Facilities in the areas of Somerset West, Sir Lowry's Pass and Chris Nissan Park. Our services to the ECD community include assisting with registration, liaising with municipal and provincial departments, conducting site and support visits and assisting with Covid-19 compliance and communication.

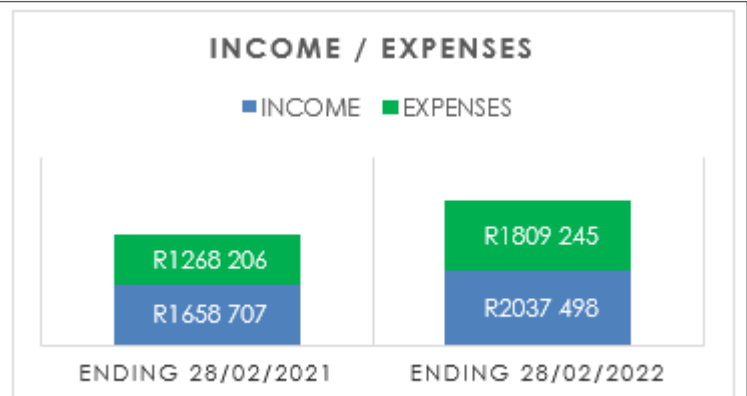
**From 1 April 2022, this was moved to the Dept of Education.

Total number of ECD support interactions: 1590

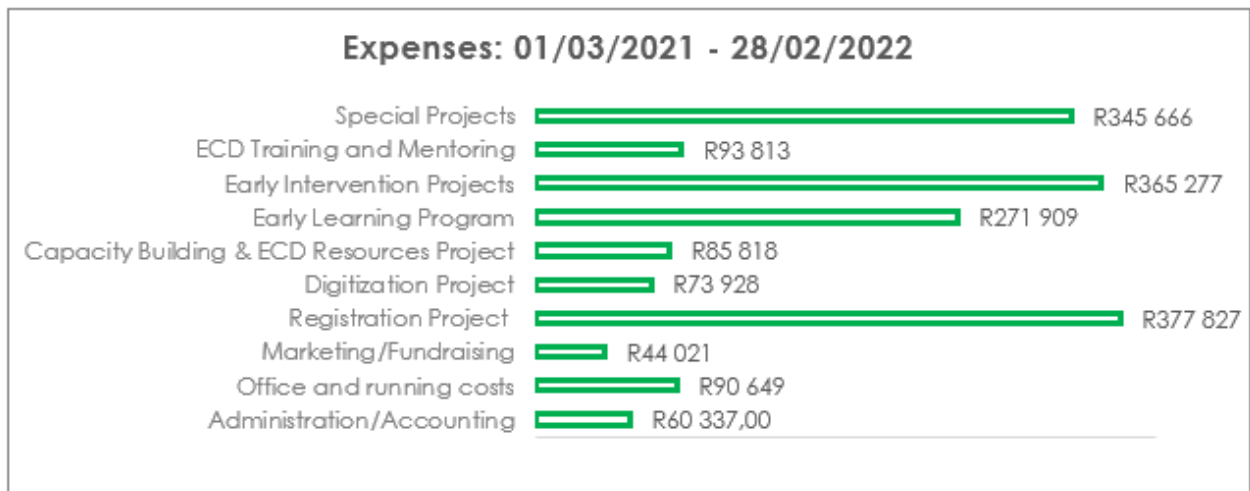


Financial Overview

With Covid-19 still limiting gatherings in 2021, we managed to offer our programs with purpose and focus. Our highlights included moving our Resource Library from a container to a room next to our office in October 2021. To get resources out to the educators and children who need them most, we started delivering theme bags to their doors in August 2021. Our Early Intervention, which includes ELP training, group OT, regular screening of children, mentoring and Teacher Enrichment Workshops, has had noteworthy results. Weekly OT-related activities were sent to our 70 member-strong Principal group for added impact.



This all requires funding and our deepest gratitude to all those who have and continue to support us.



In Gratitude

Every donation, however big or small, has made a significant difference.

C Keet / M Pierson / D Coombe / A Pierson / D de Beer / PBA Herbertson / S Bill/M Duxbury / Exclusive Access NPC / QE Admin NPC / E Trace / H Henman / Mitek / H Blaylock / F Gallagher / Golden Sunbeams e.V. / DSD / MySchool / DGMT / CoCT GIA / G Jung / Apple Tool&Gas / Upside Trust / Shoebox of Love / L Weil / S Farr / Lieve Vandeput / Inge Gypens / R Gray / F Drysdale / DES Rotary E CL / Erinvale Eagles / G Thompson / B Kingwell / Strand Masters Swimmers / CH Landsaat / Patrick McCarten / SNGCA / R Peter / G DeWulf / Breadline Africa / Five Seasons Trust / Balwin Foundation / CheAfrica / P Keet / Else DeJong / Literary Ladies / Geoss Isipho / Cast on 4 Kids knitters and contributors / Sue Diepeveen – The Drama Factory / Anton de Freitas Sage & Thyme / Helderberg Sunrise Rotary / Together Against Covid / Virtual Resource / Hollywood Bets / Exclusive Books / BookDash / Singakwenza / Pebbles Kitchen / JAM / Lombard Insurance / Urban Voice Church / L Godlonton / M Brink / Fussfree Printing / K Gambarana iDesign / Kiewitfonds Belgium / D Lydell / Hartklop / A deMardt / R Abertyn / E van den Dael / Reach Trust / Jordaan Family

Final message from the Founding Director, Léanne Keet

Education, empowering women and Early Childhood Development (ECD) are crucial to the upliftment and transformation of marginalised communities in South Africa - and Masikhule has been dedicated to these strategic areas for the past 17 years. Even though we saw 2020 and 2021 still in the throes of the Covid pandemic, we celebrated our ability to be adaptable, agile and focused on the changing needs of the ECD community. Through our team's creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, we discovered new ways of reaching our beneficiaries. According to Horace, *'Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant'*, and this has certainly been true for us as a team.

Our most significant achievement has been the development of the Masikhule Early Learning Program (ELP) and launching Masikhule Learn, our online ELP in early 2022.

We as a team continue to be amazed and inspired by the resilience and courage of the women we work with in the ECD community. We are stronger because of them and we are ever grateful to our many donors and supporters for enabling us to continue on this journey of collaboration and empowerment.

We said goodbye to Rachille Morison in October 2021 after 3 years at Masikhule – thank you for your input and dedication! Thank you to our Advisory Board members - Greet De Wulf, Else de Jong, Naomi Malebo and Erika Kruger - and to our Masikhule team of Jeanine Andro, Amanda Bangani, Karen Bufé, Anjo du Preez, Sandy Immelman and Coreen Vlok for giving so selflessly and generously to Masikhule and its beneficiaries.

We look forward to continuing to make a meaningful difference together.

In gratitude,
Léanne



Educating all of our children must be one of our most urgent priorities. We all know that education, more than anything else, improves our chances of building better lives.
Nelson Mandela

VISION	MISSION	VALUES
By responding to the needs of Early Childhood Development (ECD) within marginalised communities, Masikhule supports and develops ECD educators and children to achieve their full potential, and thus also the sustainable wellbeing of the community.	To train, develop and support ECD educators from marginalised communities to ensure children have equal access to holistic early learning programs and resources, so that they may enter formal schooling with a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and independence.	Masikhule embodies integrity, respect, inclusivity, adaptability and empathy to ensure that, through partnerships, sustainable empowerment can take place.



Quality Early Childhood Development for EVERY CHILD