



# Newsletter March 2023

## And we are off to a great start!

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of the first term already. This year has begun so well – we can't wait to see what the rest of it has in store for us all.

### What have we achieved so far?

#### Staff

We are thrilled to have expanded our reach with the addition of three new staff members who joined us at the beginning of February. Welcome – and may we have many years of making a difference together.



**Ann Pedersen**

Training Facilitator and Mentor



**Michaela Naidoo**

Occupational Therapist



**Shijham Majiedt**

ECD Support Practitioner

### Early Learning Resource Library

We are very proud of the amazing work our ELRL team is doing – just look at these stats since our first delivery on 24th January until the 17th March:

- Members: 43 ECD Centres (record!)
- Theme bags delivered: 178
- Age-appropriate books delivered: 1090
- Total items supplied: 4 657
- Deliveries done: 117
- Volunteers: 4



## Training and Mentoring

**Early Learning Program (ELP) 3 – 5 years:** Five sessions covering 5 themes with particular focus on daily activities to develop specific skills, ring time discussions, learning rings, music and movement and fun gross motor play ideas with a group of 12 educators.

The sessions also include Teacher Enrichment sessions by our OT, highlighting the importance of certain developmental skills and how to stimulate these in the class setting.

Each attendee received a stationery kit to ensure they have the tools and resources to implement our wonderfully diverse program.

Our ELP specialist and OT have already conducted 30 mentorship visits.



**Early Learning Program (ELP) 0 – 3 years:** This ELP was launched this year with a group of 10 educators. Besides receiving a stationery kit, each ECD Centre received a well-stocked and purposefully selected Baby and Toddler resource kit which included a baby playgym, blocks, shape sorters, puzzles, doll, books, toy mirror and more – to the value of almost R3 000 each.

Three sessions have been held covering important aspects of early child development, sensory-motor play and play ideas and the attendees have enjoyed creating games and toys from waste. Sessions on early nutrition and early medical and health matters have been very beneficial.

Each educator has been visited twice by Masikhule mentors to offer guidance and support, with attendees loving the opportunity to share ideas with each other via their WhatsApp group.



## OT Early Intervention and Mentoring

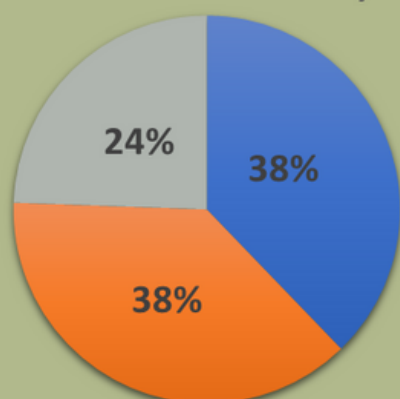


In February, 94 children between the ages of 3 and 6 years were screened by our OT, with interesting results.

Worryingly, only 24 % of the children tested were performing at the expected level of development. We have much work ahead of us! In response, our OT has already provided 9 OT group sessions at 3 ECD Centres plus 18 OT mentorship visits have taken place.

We feel privileged to be able to make a difference in the lives of these youngsters.

Overall Pre-screen: February 2023



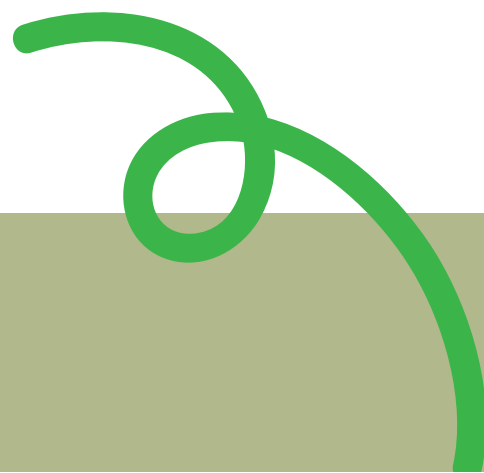
■ 0 ■ 1 ■ 2

Key:

0 = unable / not achieved

1 = needs practice

2 = well achieved



## Masikhule LEARN

Our digital platform is well on its way with over 220 users during our test phase. There are exciting changes in the pipeline and we look forward to sharing our new online LEARN platform with you all. Please keep an eye on our social media posts for updates.



Transport – Land Transport



My Emotions



My Home

## Capacity Building – Special Projects

Thanks to generous sponsors, five well-stocked book nooks have been installed – to the delight of the children and educators!

6 200 Book Dash books have been received, packed and delivered to 51 ECD Centres.

What's in the pipeline? Two new jungle gyms and six more book nooks!



## Nutrition

2 100 kg of nutritious porridge have been distributed to 37 ECD Centres, feeding almost 2000 children every day.

18 600 tasty and healthy meals from Pebbles Project Kitchens were distributed to an average of 20 – 25 ECD Centres in the last 3 months.



## Events

On 14 March we participated in the amazing Valiant Swart event at Calling Academy – thanks to Isipho Trust. Lots of fun was had by all!

Next month Felicity Gallagher is running the Two Oceans Marathon to raise funds for us. Please support her: <https://www.givengain.com/cause/5370/campaigns/25750/>

We are looking forward to getting together and collecting lots of warm woolies for our annual Mandela Day event – Cast on 4 Kids. Please keep an eye out for more details closer to the time.



## How have we achieved this?

Through the most amazing support by so many. We are truly grateful for the trust and ongoing contributions from our partners and donors as well as the passion and commitment from the ECD Centres we work with – plus, of course, our dedicated staff!

A special thank you must go to our loyal monthly donors – we appreciate you SO much. Your regular donations and belief in us are valued.

Without the businesses, individuals and organisations that fund our big projects, we would not be able to keep making the difference that we do. Thank you, each and every one of you!

Thank you also to those who donate time, expertise and goodies that are needed – and to those of you who continue to swipe your MySchool cards for us. Please sign up if you have not already: [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za) and select Masikhule as your beneficiary – or update your existing beneficiaries to include us.

Ways to give:



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