

# MASIKHULE

*we are growing*



## MASIKHULE WELCOMES 2024!

We are off to such a great start this year! With grateful thanks to all of our supporters, donors and partners, we are looking forward to accomplishing many goals based on our pillars: Training, Mentoring, Early Intervention, ECD Resources, Nutrition and MASKOT. **#togetherwecanmakeadifference**



## SWIM THE BAY FOR BOOKS



22nd March saw our Founder, Léanne Keet, and her Crazeez team mates Amy Lansdell, Chris Mullineux and David Hall, take on the challenge of a relay swim across False Bay, from Miller's Point to Rooi Els - all in order to raise awareness and funds for early literacy. The epic swim in pristine conditions took 11 hours 16 minutes to complete.

"We were acutely aware of our pledge to swim the bay for books and improving early literacy skills of vulnerable children within the Helderberg basin and within the ECD Centres connected to Masikhule. Having exceeded all expectations and raising over R53 000 to this cause has made the entire adventure even more worthwhile. Our deepest gratitude to each and every donor for supporting the Swim the Bay for Books cause. Thank you for being part of the change," said Léanne.

<https://www.givengain.com/campaign/swim-the-bay-for-books>

## »» EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE LIBRARY ««

### NEW RECORD

February saw the highest amount of theme bags and books delivered in a month since our ERLR launched in 2014 - along with the most deliveries ever made.

Thanks to our amazing donor, our wonderful Library team - and huge thanks to the volunteers who help making sure all items are returned, cleaned and packed ready for the next ECD Centre to use. There are currently 53 ECD Centres registered as members of our ERLR - way beyond our wildest dreams when we launched in a container all those years ago!

Theme bags delivered  
141

Books delivered  
720

Deliveries made  
105

(previous monthly record: 71)



## TRAINING



### ECD FOUNDATION TRAINING

Our training started on a positive and productive note with 20 ECD practitioners and 4 ECD principals attending our newly created Foundation Training. This 4 day training lays the groundwork in preparation for our Early Learning Program (ELP) courses which commenced in February.



### EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM (ELP)

Theme-based ELP 0 - 3 and ELP 3 - 5 group training takes place with 10 participants each attending fortnightly training (20 ECD Centres in total). Teachers receive wonderful resources, mentoring visits and extra input by our OT to ensure maximum implementation within the Centres and to ensure all children benefit from the learning program. Thus far we have covered 5 themes.



### INCLUSIVE LEARNING

In March we presented a 5 day Inclusive Learning Course for 41 principals and educators from 39 ECD Centres - thanks to our long-term donors and supporters, Lombard Insurance.

This course was aimed at equipping educators with knowledge and practical intervention methods to effectively work with young children who are at different stages of ability and development.

Inclusive Education presented the first two days of the course on how to ensure that all children on varying developmental levels are benefitting from activities and that every child is learning and taking part. ORT SA Cape Education presented the following two days covering Perceptual Skills Training and Level 1 Lego-training. The last day was hosted by Marilet van Rooyen and Eloise Grobbelaar, specialists in autism and neurodiversity, on how to manage different behaviours in the classroom setting.

Thank you to Jeanine Andro for very successfully facilitating this excellent course and to Karen Bufé for presenting the interactive session on Body Moves to finish off the week.



**Training and mentoring - the core of what we do - is made possible by our much-valued monthly donors and generous support from Cheafrika, Kiewitfonds, Lombard Insurance and Upside Trust.**



## ECD RESOURCES



The ECD Centres we work with are situated in marginalised communities and most of them have very little space in which to work, play, store resources, etc. Thankfully Golden Sunbeams e.V., one of our long-term and very special partners, was swift to come on board and fund the installation of over 1120 bag hooks at 30 of these Centres.

These school bag hooks not only free up space, they also help to instill good habits, reduce clutter, and keep bags and their contents in better condition.





## NUTRITION



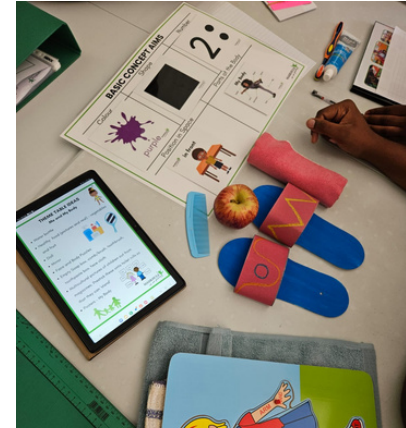
Thank you to The Good Newspaper for publishing a positive story about Masikhule's successful nutrition pillar. Through positive partnerships with Upside Trust, Pebbles and Golden Sunbeams, we are able to feed over 2000 young children daily.

Read more about it here:

<https://www.thegoodnewspaper.net/post/masikhule-s-ongoing-commitment->

## »»» TABLET PROJECT «««

Thanks to our generous donor, Mike Roper of Portfutures, we were able to purchase another 5 tablets for deserving ECD Centres who follow our Early Learning Program. Our online program, MASKOT, is incorporated throughout our training - and having access to tablets makes usage and team work so much easier.



### 4 categories

- ELP 0 – 3 years
- ELP 3 – 5 years
- ECD Resources
- Learning and Development (Early Intervention)

### Theme-Based ELP

ELP 0 – 3 years

- 5 themes (new themes added regularly)

ELP 3 – 5 years

- 22 themes ( added to regularly)

### Early Intervention

- Gross Motor Skills
- Fine Motor Skills
- Basic Concepts
- Visual Perception and other early learning skills
- Extra ideas using equipment
- OT for ECD videos
- Developmental Checklists



## MASKOT



We are excited to see how MASKOT is growing! Thanks to super-efficient Beeline, we have officially launched our online app:

<https://masikhule.org/maskot-online-program/>

We also hosted two very successful onboarding workshops with Funda Kunye in Hout Bay and True North in Vrygrond and we now have over 342 regular users and look forward to growing from strength to strength!

Our grateful thanks to Upside Trust for their consistent encouragement, support and generous donations towards this project.

Follow on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/masikhule.maskot/>

**MASKOT** 



## FAREWELL!



It is with a heavy heart that we bid Coreen Vlok farewell as she relaxes her way into (sort-of) retirement! Coreen has been with us since 2010 and has played an enormous role in training and mentoring and building Masikhule to where it is today. We are thrilled that she will still be popping in to assist with the Resource Library and with training preparations - and wish her everything of the very best for her next wonderful chapter.

Thank you for being such an integral part of Masikhule for over a decade Coreen!



## THANK YOU

Thank you to ALL our donors and supporters. Every cent is spent on ensuring the ECD community as a whole - the children, educators, principals, parents and caregivers - benefit from Masikhule's needs-based programs and initiatives. Thank you for walking the road with us.

**“EDUCATION IS NOT PREPARATION FOR LIFE; EDUCATION IS LIFE ITSELF.”**

— JOHN DEWEY



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