

MASIKHULE

we are growing



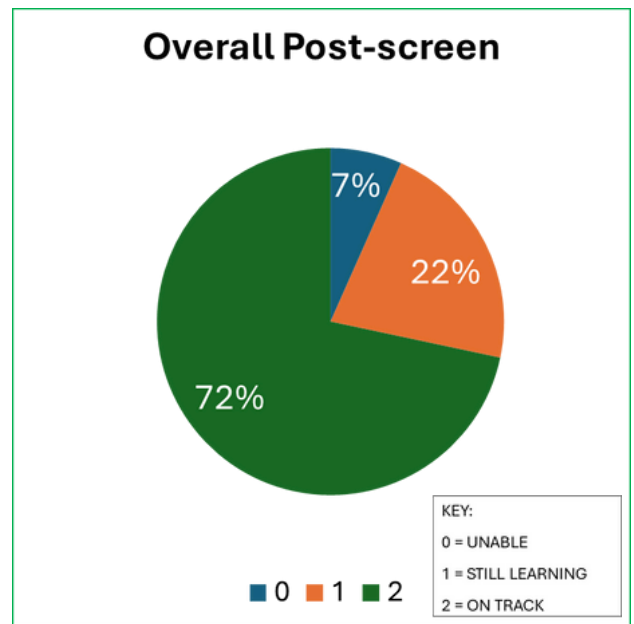
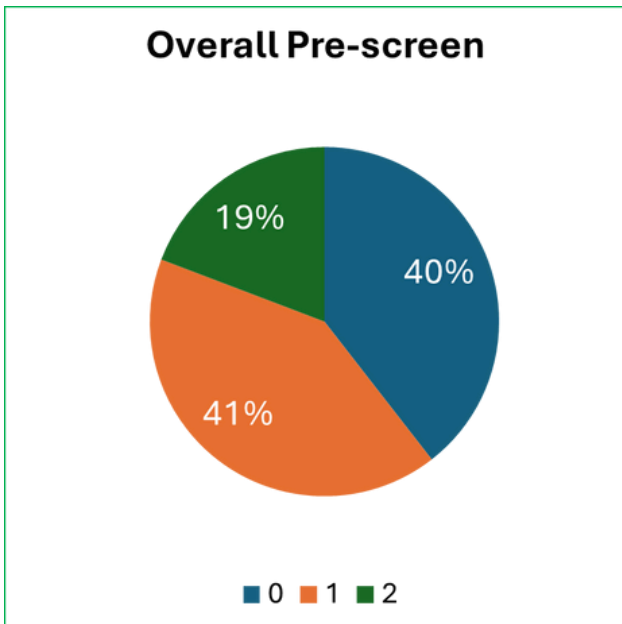
TIME FOR REFLECTION

As we approach the end of the year, we are afforded the opportunity to take stock, reflect, analyze and plan for the year ahead. But first, a reflection on some of our activities and achievements.

#togetherwecanmakeadifference



PERFORMANCE RESULTS



90 3 - 5 year old's were assessed in February and again in November 2024, with astonishing results. In February, less than 20% of children were anywhere near being on track in terms of their age, development and early learning skills, with 81% of children behind in their development. These poor performance scores affect all areas of a child's life - general independence, early literacy, early numeracy, language and communication, early learning foundations, self confidence and self esteem. But, with young children's brains being pliable, eager and ready for stimulation, and after 9 months of Masikhule's intervention programs, we saw a radical shift in these same young children being ready to face the next stage of development with competence and confidence. 72% of the children are now on track with only 7% of them experiencing marked delays. How was this achieved? A holistic, integrated approach is our answer to ensuring children are on track for a successful future.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM 0 – 5 YEARS

ECD teachers from community-based ECD Centres receive regular training - this intensive and stimulating training includes four full days of Foundation Training, twice monthly theme-based training, as well as resource packs and theme bags. Training included gaining insight into child development, theme-based teaching strategies, understanding the daily program, practicing weekly planning, understanding child observations and report writing. The practical training includes creating teaching resources, art and play resources from waste material. The graduates are committed to implementing the holistic development of the children through planned purposeful play.

MENTORSHIP

Important to implementation is the follow-up mentorship which totaled over 160 mentor visits with the trainees at their ECD Centres. Here the mentors are able to interact with the teachers individually within their own classroom environment, giving praise, guidance, advice and encouragement.

EARLY INTERVENTION THROUGH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Early Intervention is an essential element of our training and programs, which have been developed over the years by our Occupational Therapist. Teacher Enrichment Workshops (TEW) are offered during training where teachers are offered insight into development, how to identify learning barriers and what steps to take to make positive changes.

65 Children from 6 ECD Centres received group Occupational Therapy over the year. Besides benefiting these children directly, the teachers also benefited by working with the OT and learning new skills themselves.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING TRAINING

In September we ran a second 5-day Inclusive Learning Course with 40 senior educators and principals from 39 ECD Centres. The main purpose for the training is to provide ECD principals and educators with the knowledge, insight and skills to ensure ALL children are included in the early learning program. Teachers feel more confident and competent to identify early learning barriers, to grade activities and ensure ALL children benefit from the learning program. Our grateful thanks to the donors who made this extra training possible.

MASKOT

Our Online Early Learning Program has been approved and endorsed by the WCED.

In September we presented our Early Learning Program (ELP) and MASKOT (ELP online App) to the director of ECD in the Western Cape Education department.

Our aim was to share the positive impact that Masikhule and MASKOT is having within the ECD community. We also had the opportunity to share clear evidence of how Early Intervention and Occupational Therapy are positively impacting and changing outcomes of early child development. Having Early Intervention strategies, which includes a variety of therapeutic modalities such as OT, should be part of policy discussions within relevant government departments to ensure ALL children are on track.

Over 600 users have signed up on the App - with free access to our Early Learning Program, themes, activities, songs, books, posters and much more!

For more information about MASKOT please visit:

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



NUTRITION

As you are no doubt aware, early nutrition is vital as it helps children develop to their full potential, facilitates concentration and can impact their health into adulthood.

Nutritious MasiPAP deliveries for January to November 2024:

43 ECD Centres, over 2000 young children.

429 x 25 kg bags of porridge = 10 725 kg = 215 000 meals.

Thankyou Upside Trust!

Pebbles Kitchen – frozen pre-cooked balanced meals:

15 190 meals were delivered to over 30 ECD Centres

Thank you Pebbles and Golden Sunbeams!



EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE LIBRARY

We are pleased to report that our Resource Library continues to grow and thrive. Thanks to our team who manage the library, deliveries and collections, and our eight volunteers who check in the bags, we accomplished the following in 2024:

Total members: 58 ECD Centres

Deliveries / collections: 868

Theme bags issued: 1167

Books (in book packs: 8 000

GETTING MOBILE!



Thanks to ILANGA Foundation, we now have our very own MasiVan.

This vehicle is so appreciated as it is facilitating our Early Learning Resource Library deliveries, mentorship visits, food distribution oversight, resource deliveries, etc. We are thrilled to bits to have this awesome resource available for our team.

And big thank you to Strand Signs for their stunning vehicle branding (which they have done pro bono for our NPO!).

SPECIAL PROJECTS

One of our pillars is ECD Resources and we are so grateful to the donors who made the following possible this semester:

- Apple Tool & Gas: an amazing jungle gym installation
- Erinvale Eagles: 9 playboards
- Running for purpose - Pierre Andro and Jean-Luc Bufé: 2 playboards and a reading corner
- CheAfrica: 20 junior book nooks and carpets, plus 4 tables and 16 chairs
- Rotary Club of Helderberg: 10 reading corners
- MiTek: 15 reading corners
- Book Dash: 9600 age- and language appropriate books for children to take home!

Each reading corner is stocked with age- and language-appropriate books and comes with a colourful carpet for comfort while looking at, reading and listening to the stories in these books.

These items will benefit hundreds of little ones over the years – thank you!



THANK YOU

Our funders make our work possible. Without you, we would not be here – never mind continuing to grow! Thank you everyone who has made this possible – from our valued monthly donors to those who fund our larger projects, donate towards our special projects, participate in fund-raising events, buy Relate Bracelets or have Masikhule as their beneficiary for their MySchool card. Every bit helps and is appreciated. Thank you! Should you wish to fund any of our projects for 2025, please reach out to us.



"EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE."

W. YEATS



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