



ANNUAL REPORT

1 MARCH 2025 TO
28 FEBRUARY 2026

A word from Greet De Wulf, Masikhule Advisory Board Chairperson

I want to honour the extraordinary leadership of Léanne Keet and the unwavering dedication of the entire Masikhule team. Their work continues to strengthen Early Childhood Development across marginalised communities in the Helderberg, where Masikhule provides vital services – including training, mentorship, early intervention, nutrition support, ECD resources, and registration guidance – to pre-schools that nurture more than 3 000 children each year . Through initiatives such as the MASKOT Early Learning Program, children under five receive a sound and qualitative early learning foundation and the best possible start in life .

Léanne recently received the Paul Harris Award with one Sapphire from the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club. It is a deeply deserved recognition of her sustained impact on early childhood development in the Helderberg Basin – an impact she immediately and humbly shares with her team. Together, they embody Masikhule’s promise: We are growing – not only in reach, but in the lasting change they create for children, educators, and communities. As Chair of the Advisory Board, I am profoundly proud of their work and the hope it continues to cultivate.

A big congratulations to Léanne and the team.



Our 7 pillars of service



ECD TRAINING

Building practitioner knowledge, confidence and practical classroom skills.



ECD MENTORSHIP

On-site reinforcement, feedback and implementation support.



ECD RESOURCES

Access to theme bags, books, educational aids and delivery services.



EARLY INTERVENTION

Screening, OT groups, teacher enrichment and developmental support.



ONLINE

MASKOT extends free learning content and resources to educators.



NUTRITION

Partnerships support daily nutrition and sustainable food preparation.



REGISTRATION

Guidance to ECD principals through partial-care and Bana Pele processes.

Masikhule's year at a glance



78 ECD Centres
+ 390 Teachers



+ 3000 Children
benefitting



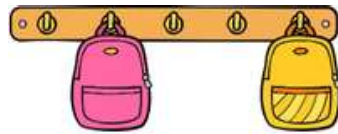
236 Training attendees
58 Days of training



+ 420 Mentorship visits



50 OT Groups
120 OT Mentor visits
50 OT videos
118 children screened



53 Bag hook units
installed



14 Jungle Gyms



29 Chalkboards
for Play



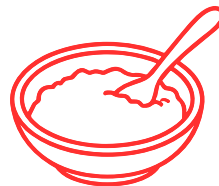
1 246 Theme bags
issued
(25 000 play items)



+ 875 Library
Deliveries



60 First Aid
Kits



50 ECD Centres
2400 children
+ 11 388 kg porridge
130 000 lunch meals



12 Wonderbags



30 Book Nooks
11 080 Books
donated

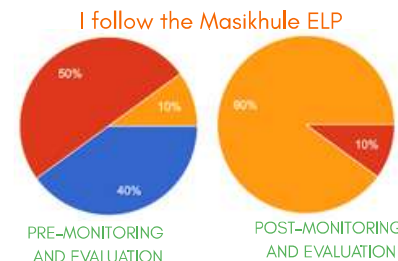


561 Active users
68 140 Content views
8 New tablets donated



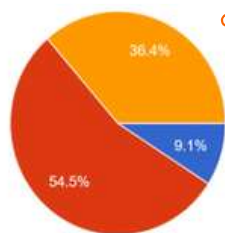
ECD TRAINING

Our ECD Training is aligned with the National Curriculum Framework of SA, is underpinned by the ELDAS (Early Learning And Developmental Areas) and has been registered and endorsed by the WCED. Our theme-based programs and other needs-based training opportunities cover the developmental needs of young children, the importance of purposeful play in promoting holistic growth, and the implementation of a structured, age-appropriate daily programs. Our programs include sessions on early nutrition, common health concerns presented by a doctor, comprehensive art methods workshops and the implementation of gross and fine motor skills in young children. Our focus remains on developing a depth of developmental insights and the importance of including ALL children in the program through fine observation skills and laddering.

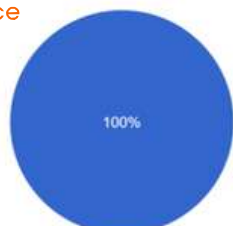


● No, not at all
● Partially/sometimes
● Yes, completely

I complete my Weekly and Daily planning in advance



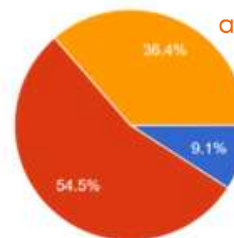
PRE-MONITORING AND EVALUATION



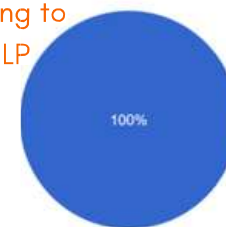
POST-MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Planning is an essential part of quality ECD practice, ensuring that daily and weekly activities cover a variety of early learning areas that support the holistic development of the whole child. By planning ahead, the teachers reported that they were more prepared and confident in their teaching.

I feel confident that I can teach according to an ELP



PRE-MONITORING AND EVALUATION



POST-MONITORING AND EVALUATION

These results show a strong link between planning and teacher confidence. Before training, only 9.1% of teachers felt confident teaching according to an Early Learning Program. After attending training, this increased to 100%. This improvement is supported by the fact that 100% of teachers were completing their daily and weekly planning in advance.

ELP 0 - 3 YEARS



24 Training sessions



19 Teachers



56 Mentorship visits



19 Baby & Toddler kits



20 Stationery kits



321 Children directly benefitting this year

ELP 3 - 5 YEARS



24 Training sessions



20 Teachers



149 Mentorship & OT visits



20 Resource Kits



20 Stationery kits



350 Children directly benefitting this year

FOUNDATION TRAINING



2 x 5-day Courses



40 ECD Teachers

MEETT TRAINING



2 x 5-day Courses



56 ECD Teachers

NCF / ELDAS TRAINING



2 x 1 day Workshops



40 ECD Teachers





Training is strengthened when teachers can apply their learning in their own classrooms, receive feedback and work through challenges under the guidance and support of a mentor. During the year, ELP trainers completed 75 mentorship visits for the 0-3 program and 150 visits for the 3-5 program – these extra visits included OT-focused observations and support.

In the 0 – 3 and 3-5 year cohorts, mentorship supported 40 teachers across 40 ECD centres.

The support of teachers by the school principal was observed to be very important, and within these groups, principals were hands-on and supportive, enabling teachers to implement the Early Learning Program (ELP) effectively and achieve positive developmental outcomes for the children.

A key highlight was seeing the difference from the first mentorship visit to the last. Teachers' implementation of the training in their daily routines became increasingly evident, and the guidance provided during mentorship visits resulted in meaningful changes in the classrooms. Even small adjustments, such as rearranging furniture, contributed to a better learning experience for the children.



+ 40 Centres part of ELP training



75 ELP 0-3 visits

150 ELP 3-5 visits

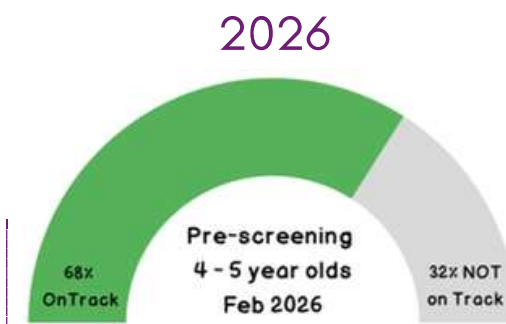
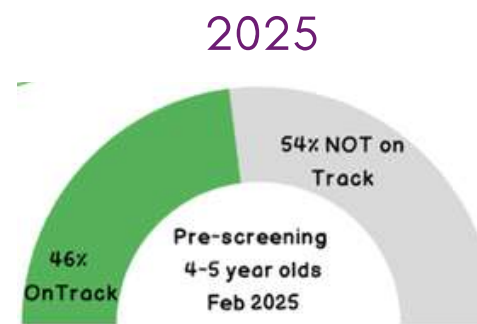
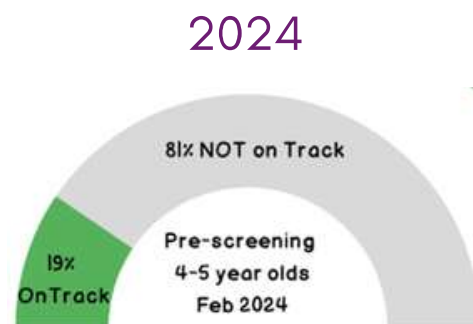


EARLY INTERVENTION

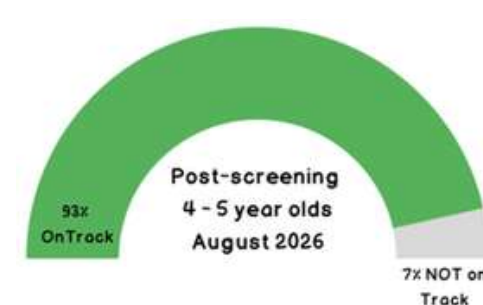
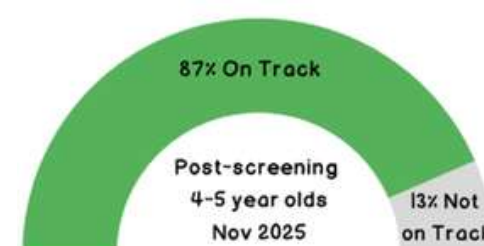


Screening Results

Pre-Screening



Post-Screening



Looking at data from 2024 through the the end of 2026 allows for honest reflection and analysis. We are encouraged by the consistently improved levels of ELP implementation, development and growth as seen in these developmental scores.

In 2024, only 19% of children assessed at the start of the year were on track in terms of learning and development. Looking forward to February 2026, 68% of children entering this phase were on track. This indicates improved teacher engagement throughout the ECD Centre, and particularly from the younger classes. After teachers attending training, being mentored and receiving resources from Masikhule, the children they teach have shown consistent improvement throughout the years - from 72% of children on track by the end of 2024 to an astounding 93% of 4-5 year old's on track by August 2026.

Seeing year-on-year progress, with more children being on track at the start of the year bodes well for these children progressing throughout the year with higher levels of competence, engagement and confidence.



16 Teacher Enrichment workshops



120 OT Mentorship visits



118 children pre-screened
103 children post-screened



OT at 5 ECD Centres



50 OT group sessions



50 OT videos created for MASKOT and shared with ECDs





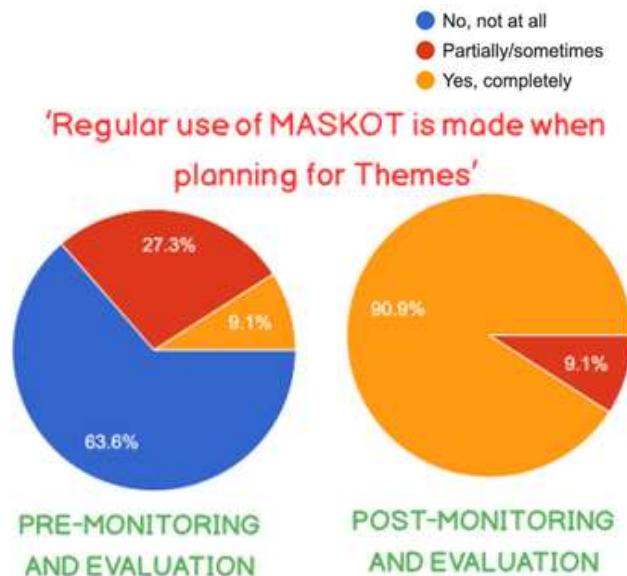
Our open-source online App, MASKOT, continues to grow and gain traction amongst the ECD community. We are determined to grow this even further but are encouraged by the feedback and results we have seen thus far.

Our gratitude to the team at Beeline for creating an App that is fit-for-purpose and ensures that anyone, anywhere can access not only a holistic ELP, but classroom and teaching resources in addition to Occupational Therapy activity ideas and videos.

FUTURE PLANNING: We are in the process of developing an online training course - MEETT (Masikhule Early Education Teacher Training) - offering 6 modules covering the understanding of Early Childhood Development as the foundation for all future learning and competencies. MEETT will equip new and existing ECD teachers (many without formal ECD qualifications) with foundational knowledge in early childhood development, classroom management and practical teaching skills, and closes the gap between knowing ECD principles and applying them in the classroom.

Digitising the MEETT training will extend Masikhule's reach beyond the Helderberg region to teachers / caregivers nationally. It also onboards new centres into the Masikhule partnership, introduces them to the MASKOT platform, and acts as a gateway to the main Early Learning Program (ELP) and other advanced training.

'Regular use of MASKOT is made when planning for Themes'



309 New Members joined
561 Active / regular users



77% Engagement on mobile devices



8 New tablets sponsored, with monthly data.
Total of 25 Tablets in use at ECD Centres



6 687 App visits
145 739 App interactions
68 140 Content views





Early Learning Resource Library

The Early Learning Resource Library remained a practical backbone for quality learning program implementation. Fifty-five ECD centres were active members during the year, with 875 deliveries and collections enabling teachers to access resources without leaving their classrooms during the school day.

A total of 1,246 theme bags were issued, together with 7,670 reading books. Across all categories, the library issued 32,590 items – slightly above the previous year's total. By February 2026, stock included 232 theme bags and 97 book packs, each book pack containing 10 reading books.

Our dedicated Resource Library team, supported by a committed group of nine volunteers, ensured that the Resource Library continued to operate with great efficiency throughout the year. Their valuable contribution has strengthened the support we provide to ECD teachers and added tremendous value to the implementation of our Early Learning Program..



55 ECD Centre members



875 Deliveries / collections



1 246 Theme bags issued



7 670 Reading books issued



32 590 Total items issued



+2 000 Children directly benefitting





Special Projects

When extra funding is received, we are thrilled to be able to undertake special projects to ensure the ECD Centres receive extra resources they may need.

- Early Literacy and book access was a major feature of the year, with 11 000 age-and language-appropriate books being donated and distributed to over 3500 children.
- We were fortunate to have been able to install 30 fully-stocked reading corners in 30 ECD classes.
- Other projects included installing bag hooks at 16 ECD centres and four sets of tables and chairs distributed in October.
- 60 ECD staff received Level 1 First Aid training and First Aid Kits in October.
- The first phase of MAPP (Rotary-funded Movement And Play Project) kicked off in November, when 14 ECD centres received jungle gyms between November and February.



Project	Centres / participants	Children benefitting per annum
Junior and Senior Book Nooks	30 centres	1,500
Book Dash	67 centres	3,560
Jungle Gyms	14 centres	497
Bag Hooks	16 centres	878
Chalkboards	29 centres	125
First Aid Level 1 Training	60 Attendees / 57 ECD Centres / 60 First Aid Kits	>2500



Nutrition support remained an essential part of Masikhule's integrated approach, helping ECD centres provide young children with regular nourishment that supports growth, concentration and learning.

MASIPAP breakfast support: In our search for a more superior protein-rich cereal containing a diverse ingredient profile to support growing brains and bodies, we introduced Startwell Cereal for children and InaniBaby for babies of 6 to 12 months from August 2025 – nourishing almost 2200 young children daily.

More than 760 children had their height measured and monitored monthly as part of the program. Encouragingly, the number of children classified as stunted decreased by 36.6%, from 41 to 26 children, while the number classified as severely stunted decreased by 33.3%, from 6 to 4 children. These results indicate a meaningful improvement in children's linear growth outcomes and highlight the positive impact of consistent growth monitoring and nutritional support. Thank you to Upside Trust for coming on board to support this valuable program.

Pebbles nutrition support: Almost 130 000 preprepared nutritious lunch meals were provided to 31 ECD Centres and >1 600 children during this period.



MASIPAP Breakfast



46 ECD Centres



+ 11 388 kg porridge



+ 2 2 0 0 Children
receiving daily breakfast

Pebbles Lunch



3 0 ECD Centres



130 000 lunch meals



+1 600 Children receiving
nutritious lunch meals daily



Masikhule is one of 17 organisations appointed by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) to support ECD principals with the registration of their ECD Centres as partial care facilities in the areas of Somerset West, Chris Nissen Park and Sir Lowry's Pass. In terms of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, ECD Centres caring for seven or more children are required to register as partial care facilities.

During the reporting period, Masikhule provided ongoing registration support to 65 ECD Centres, guiding principals through the different requirements of the registration process. This support included onsite visits, telephonic assistance, registration workshops, and assessment visits.

Of the 65 ECD Centres supported, 25 were successfully registered on eCares through the Bana Pele ECD Mass Registration process. Of these 25 centres, 11 achieved Bronze, 10 achieved Silver and 2 achieved Gold status, with the remaining 2 awaiting their registration outcomes. The remaining ECD Centres supported are at various stages of their registration and application process.



352 support visits



Somerset West
Sir Lowry's Pass
Chris Nissen Park



25 Centres registered



Fundraising & Events



March 2025

Attended and Presented at the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club Teacher's Conference

May 2025 and
February 2026

Participated in NPO Connect and Meet

July 2025

Mandela Day Cast On 4 Kids

September 205

Masikhule 20th Anniversary Celebration

October 2025

GivenGain Fundraisers:

- Their Growth. Our Race.
- Felicity Gallagher
- Making Waves for 20 Years of Impact Open Water Swim





Financial Summary

Masikhule received a clean audit for the 2025–2026 financial year. This reflects the organisation's continued commitment to responsible stewardship, sound governance and transparent use of donor and partner funding.

As always, we are extremely grateful to our donors, partners and supporters for making our work possible. Their financial support enables Masikhule to invest in teacher training, mentorship, early intervention, educational resources, nutrition, registration support and special projects that strengthen ECD centres and statistically improve outcomes for young children.



INCOME: R6 697 488

1 March 2025 - 28 February 2026



EXPENDITURE: R4 965 430

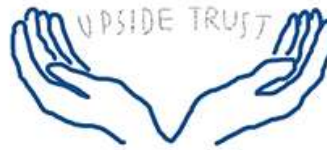
1 March 2025 - 28 February 2026





A Sincere Thank You

to all our partners, funders, sponsors, supporters and volunteers.
Together we can - and are - making a difference.



Golden Sunbeams



As well as monthly donors and once-off donations | A. Herbertson | F. Gallagher | H. Blaylock | D. de Beer | D. Coombe | M. Duxbury | S. Bill | M. Pierson | P. McCartan | L. Godlonton | Dr A. Macdonald | SCP Radiology | Wmart Trust | H. Henman | Four Seasons Trust | L. Weil | Portfutures | G & B. Jordaan | De Wulf Family & Friends | LaCuisine Elton Ter Horst | Dr. P. Keet | D. Brink | Hubert Fuhrmann | T. Naude | Anonymous donors | Fundraising contributors | Friends | Family



Our Team

Advisory Board



L- R: Chairperson Greet De Wulf
Board Members Naomi Malebo
and Else de Jong

Karen

Jeanine

Anne

Léanne

Michaela

Amanda

Ntomboxolo



Sandy

Shijham



We also extend our appreciation to the ECD principals and teachers who welcome Masikhule into their centres, engage in training and mentorship, and translate learning into daily practice for the benefit of children and families.



MASIKHULE

we are growing



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As a registered NPO and PBO,
we offer Section 18A donation
tax certificates.



www.masikhule.org



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**Watch our 20 year
journey here**