



The Basic Concepts Programme

Basic Concepts is a philosophy of teaching and learning that offers teachers a clear and systematic approach to developing the conceptual tools for numeracy and literacy that every child needs for learning. Studies in SA have shown that many young children are not acquiring the basic foundational skills for language development, numeracy and literacy.

The Basic Concepts Programme (BCP) is particularly important to learners who have not had adequate early childhood educational experiences or for learners who still need to develop logical and systematic modes of thinking.

There is a focus on both the development of cognitive processes such as *accurate perception, matching, comparing, classifying, seriation, perspective taking and conservation* (Fig. 1) as well as on expanding understanding of conceptually structured content (Fig. 2). The content of the BCP includes the following higher order conceptual domains- **colour, shape, size, position, number and letter** and associated subordinate concepts.

FIGURE 1

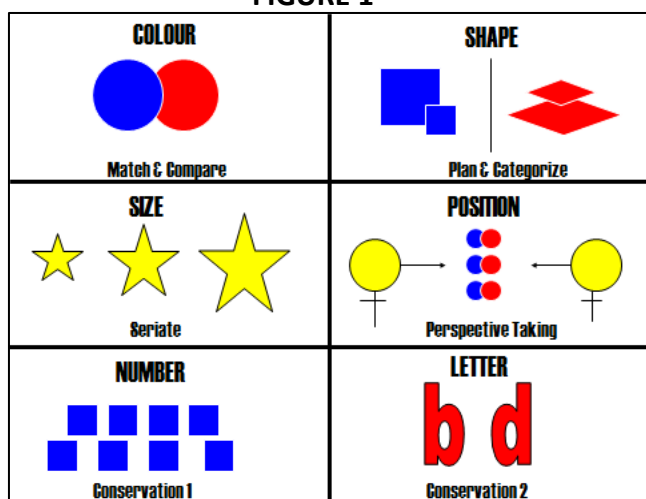
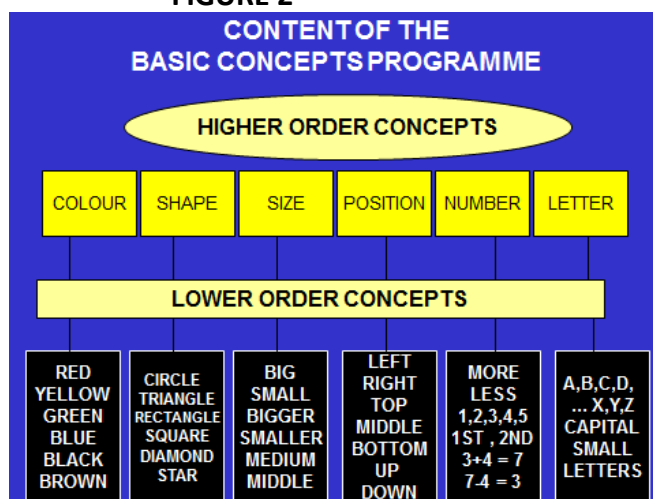


FIGURE 2



These concepts are used to mediate the cognitive processes in the programme and are particularly important for children who have not had adequate early childhood educational experiences or who start school with deficient language. These concepts are regarded as crucial for creating a basis for future learning. The BCP provides the classroom teacher with an extensive higher-order conceptual language for instruction that is easily transferrable and linked to the CAPS curriculum.

What is the Basic Concepts Programme?

- The BCP is a cognitive programme that aims to develop the language, thinking and learning abilities of young learners
- The BCP is an inclusive education programme run by teachers in small groups in the mainstream classroom
- Each of the BCP conceptual domains has been linked to the South African national curriculum statement
- The BCP provides educators with a structured and scaffolded approach to teaching that is transferable to the general curriculum
- BCP-trained educators become mediators of learning who can calibrate the help they offer to their children and encourage meaningful participation in the programme
- The BCP has been [independently reviewed](#) in several studies and is also widely recognized and used internationally as a metacognitive intervention
- The [efficacy and results](#) of the BCP have been tracked since the development of the programme over the last 16 years, and have found that learners who are exposed to the BCP are more than twice as likely to be school prepared than their peers
- The BCP is supported by leading cognitive education experts internationally: Prof Carl Haywood (USA), Prof Robert Burden (UK), Prof Charl Cilliers (SA), Prof Lena Green (SA), Dr Andreas Hansen (Norway)

For more information about the **Basic Concepts Programme** [click here](#) or view our website (www.basicconcepts.co.za).