

iKwezi Project

iKwezi, meaning 'Star', is an Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Primary School Language and Mathematics improvement project. This three-year project supports nine primary schools and their feeder community Educare sites in the Western Cape Metropole North and Metropole East Education Districts. The project started in 2010 and is now in its second year.

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to improve instructional proficiency in Foundation and Intermediate Phase Language and Mathematics.



Project Focus

Our objectives are to:

1. Improve primary teachers' conceptual understanding and knowledge of the Language and Mathematics subjects and pedagogy.
2. Improve proficiency in isiXhosa mother tongue instruction (LoLT) in the Foundation Phase.
3. Improve curriculum planning and implementation in FP & IP.
4. Encourage parental involvement.
5. Encourage participation in professional forums.

Project Schools

Thank you to the staff and Principals at the project schools for their enthusiasm and commitment to our programmes.

ACJ Phakade
Mfuleni Primary
Nyameko Primary
Solomon Qatjana Primary
Umnqophiso Primary

Bardale Primary
Mzamomtsha Primary
Nalikamva Primary
Itsitsa Primary

Nkcubeko Educare
Isiqalo Educare
Nokwezi Educare
Mzamowethu Educare
Sans Educare
Umnqophiso



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Project Interventions Activities



We believe that if learners are well prepared in Grade R and 1 in basic concepts they can build on their knowledge and skills to achieve excellence in the higher grades and beyond! We also believe that high quality accredited professional development programmes are key to changing practice. In addition to this we believe that collaboration between teachers, effective leadership, parental involvement and support from district officials and other committed partners will contribute to raising standards in our schools.

“Dream, hope, strive... for a brighter future”

Tami Mhlati, Project Coordinator



Basic Concepts Programme

Louis Benjamin offers training to 32 Grade R & 1 teachers after school and on Saturdays. Tami Mhlati mentors teachers in the implementation of new ideas and approaches in the classroom.

Grade 1 learners are tested in February of each year as part of a longitudinal study to measure the impact of the intervention.

Grade R Training

Blossom Ngwevela from ELRU offers Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills electives to Grade R practitioners from the community Educare centres.

22 Grade R teachers attended training on 5 Saturdays in 2011.

Mentoring

Tami Mhlati visits each teacher once a term and offers support and assistance with classroom management and curriculum planning.

Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE)

18 FP and 6 IP teachers from 7 project schools completed the first year of this two-year part-time UCT ACE in 2011.

Lectures are offered at Firgrove Primary School in the afternoons and on campus during the holidays. Tutorials take place at one of the schools.

Each teacher received 2 classroom observation and feedback sessions per year.

Language and Mathematics

Xolisa Guzula and Ntombi Mahobe from PRAESA shared their exciting reading and writing ideas and encouraged teachers to develop print rich environments.

In 2012 Diane Hendricks will extend the Language focus across all grades, and Cally Kühne, Gary Powell and Kaashief Hassan will further entice teachers into the exciting world of Mathematics.

We assist schools to analyse their WCED Grade 3 & 6 diagnostic test results and plan for teaching and learning accordingly.

All programmes support the implementation of the National Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Western Cape Education Department (WCED) policies and programmes.

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An external evaluation of the project will be conducted in 2012.