



Basic Concepts
Building Thinking - Harnessing Potential
foundation

BASIC CONCEPTS ADVOCACY PROJECT

PHASE 2: FRANCES BAARD (2020-2021)

REPORT 2

As a result of Covid-19, the scheduled in-person training in Frances Baard district could not proceed, and we rapidly needed to find alternative methods of training. We therefore began to implement an online group-based training and have scheduled a comprehensive online training programme for the year. The 12 training sessions (2 sessions per domain) will be spaced out over the year allowing adequate time for implementation inside the classroom.

- Name of trainers and facilitator/s:

Louis Benjamin (trainer)

Diane Goldsmith (trainer)

Gill Brand (facilitator)

- Date and Time:

Session 3: 04 May, 14:00-16h00

Session 4: 05 May, 14:00-16:00

- Main Foci of the sessions:

Basic Concepts refresher, Mediation continued, Language & vocabulary development in young children, Concept Teaching Model and the Conceptual Domain of Shape

- Register with names including all officials:

[Click here to access the GOOGLE SHEET](#)

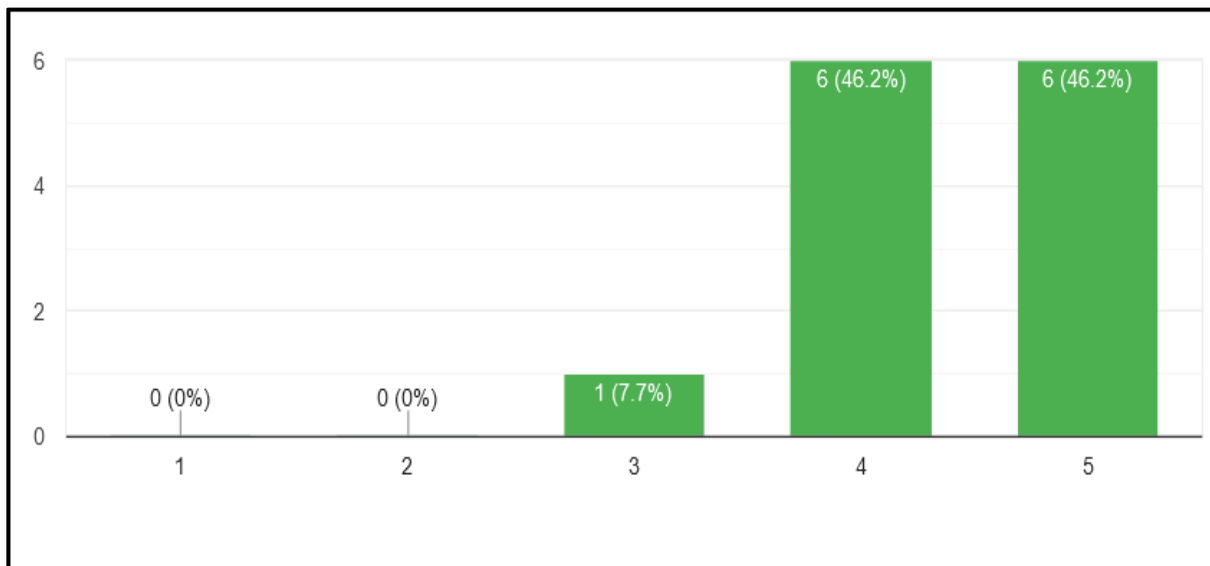
- Attendance Statistics:

Session	Date	Present	Apologies	Absent
3	04 May	38 (70%)	3 (6%)	13(24%)
4	05 May	43 (80%)	8 (15%)	3 (5%)

****Number of catch-up views of the recorded session: Session 3 = 13 & Session 4 = 10**

- Evaluation of training: (32% of attendees drawn from all 6 teacher clusters responded.)

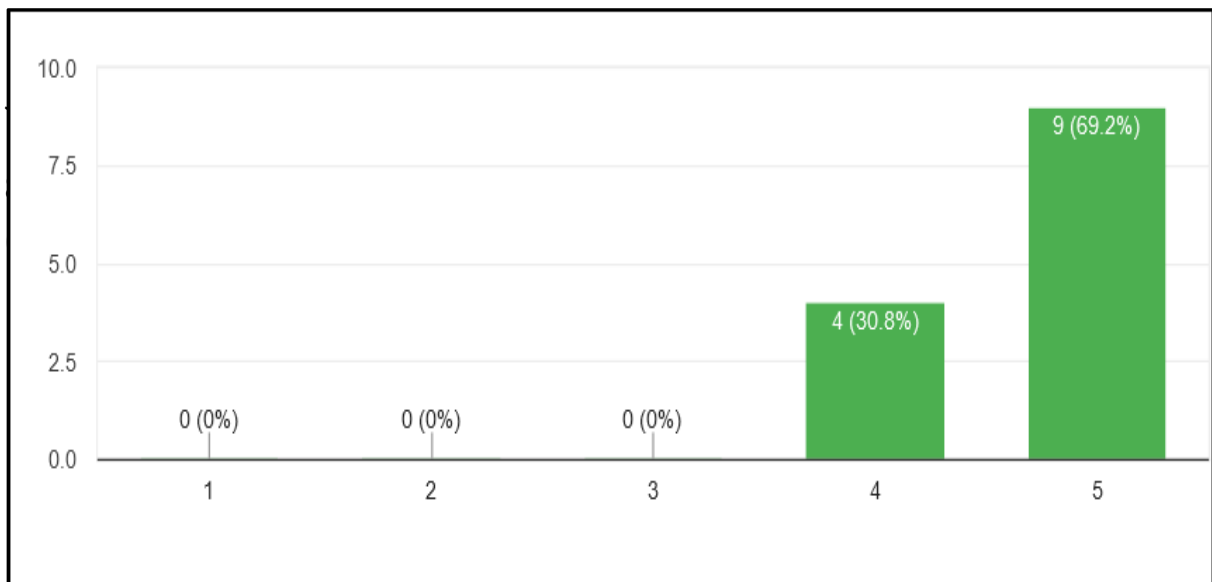
i) Rate the training sessions: -



Scale: 1= very poor | 2 = poor | 3 = average | 4= good | 5= excellent

92% of the teachers rated the overall training as either *excellent* (46%) or *good* (46%), while one teacher (**7%**) rated the training as *average*.

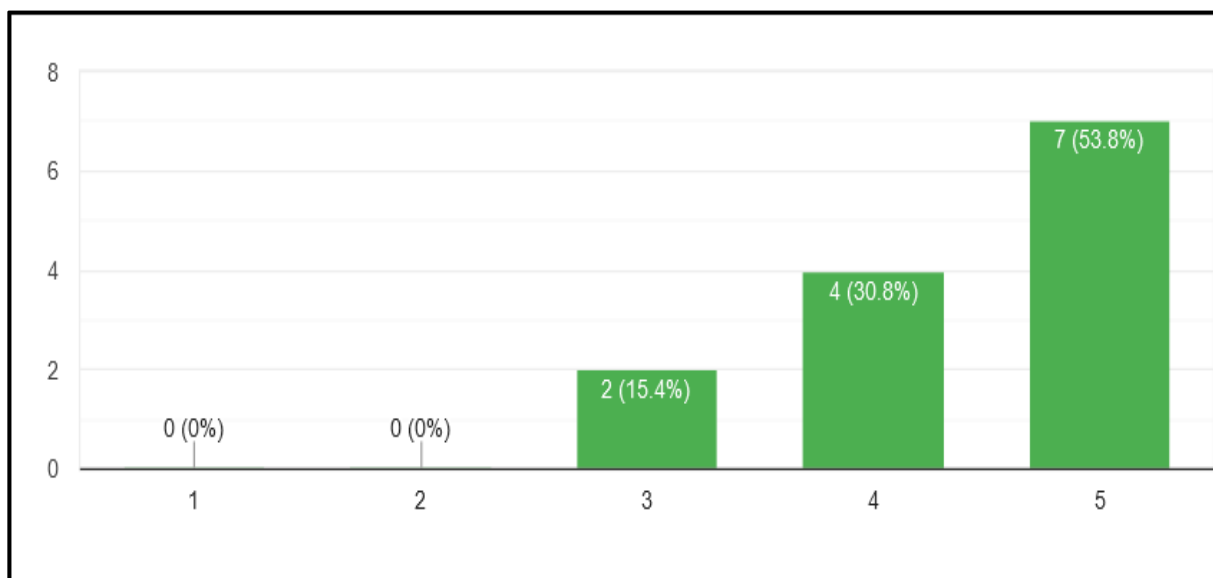
ii) Rate the quality of the information presented:-



Scale: 1= very low / 2 = low / 3 = average / 4= high / 5= very high

100% of the teachers rated the quality of the information as either *excellent* (69%) or *good* (31%).

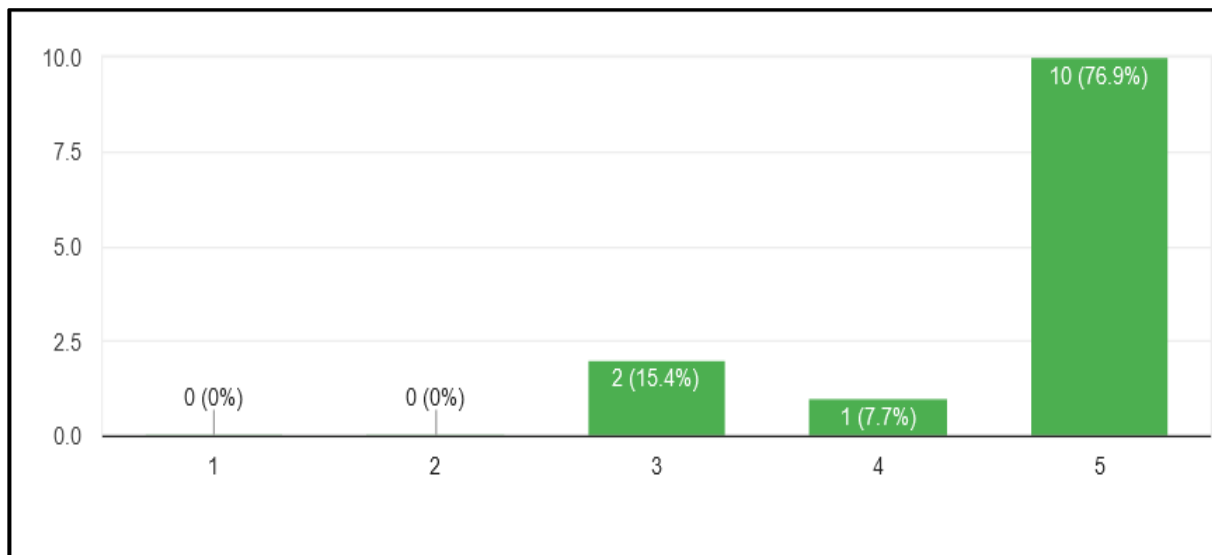
iii) Rate your interest in the Basic Concepts Programme:-



Scale: 1= very low / 2 = low / 3 = average / 4= high / 5= very high

85% of the teachers rated their interest in the Basic Concepts Programme as either very high (54%) or high (31%), while **15%** of teachers rated their interest as average.

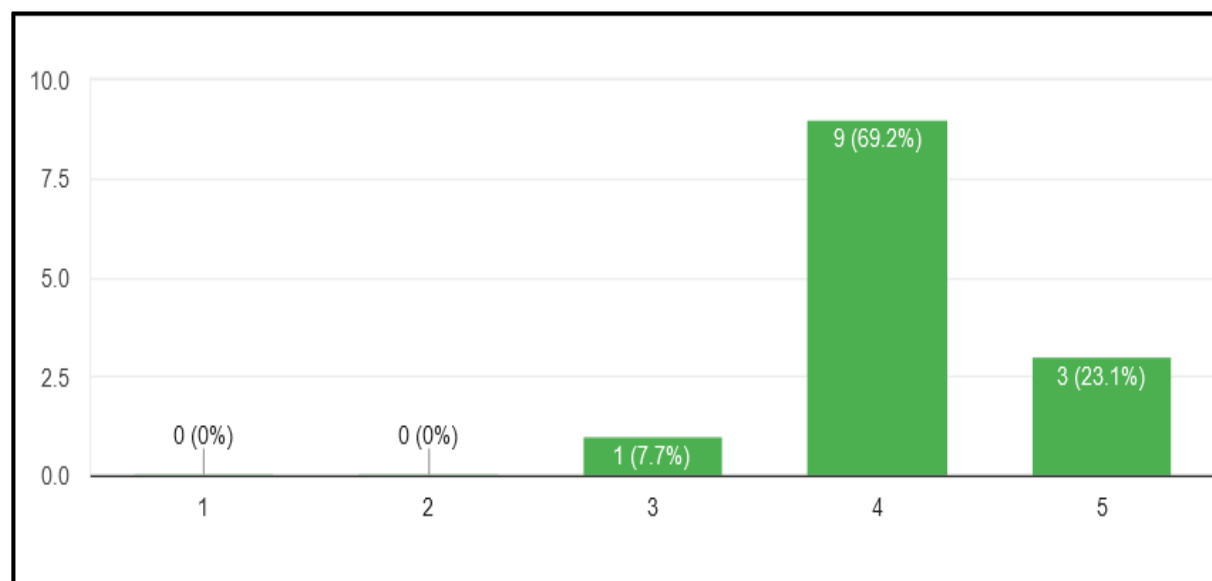
iv) Rate your motivation to implement the BCP in your class:-



Scale: 1= very low / 2 = low / 3 = average / 4= high / 5= very high

85% of the teachers rated their motivation to implement the BCP as either *very high* (77%) or *high* (8%), while **15%** of teachers rated their motivation as *average*.

v) Rate the quality of your internet connection:-



Scale: 1= very poor / 2 = poor / 3 = average / 4= good / 5= excellent

92% rated their internet connection as either *good* (69%) or *excellent* (23%), while **8%** rated their connection as *average*.

- General Comments: -

i) The overall feedback from the teachers about the training was highly (92%) positive. There were very few differences in overall ratings from the first round of training sessions. The following qualitative comments were made about the training sessions:-

Very helpful and interesting.

Excellent. I enjoyed it. Very informative.

I'm always looking forward to the sessions because we get good skills on how to teach the basic concepts. Thank you.

Rules must be implemented and everyone must be muted during the session. If we can have it at a time that one has a break first after work. But other than that it's a good training. I now have a clear understanding and knowledge about the training and I am going to improve.

The training session was good, but the time of the training is a concern.

The training session was very informative, love Dr Louis energy and the way he brings across the concepts...

The BCP is of real value to both teacher and learner. Thank you Dr Louis and team for the workshops.

Wow!!! After watching this last session on my own ...able to concentrate, I think for the first time I feel hands-on. This works for me! I'm excited to inspire my new colleague and to start on Monday with the square.

ii) While there was a slight decline (-5) in the number of teachers who attended the second round of training sessions, the average attendance remained satisfactory (75%). We were also pleased with the number of views of the recordings after the sessions (23) which helped to increase the levels of participation in this training.

iii) The training sessions were again a revision of the training conducted early last year, however, as indicated in our previous report this gave the training team the opportunity to include new teachers (9) in the project.

iv) 4 new project teachers as well as a few of the original project teachers received their BCP materials. We can now confirm that all 54

project teachers are adequately equipped to run the programme inside their classes.

v) A dramatic improvement was noted in the participants' experience of their online connections. While during the first round of training sessions **40%** of the participants rated the quality of their connections as either good or excellent, **92%** of the participants rated their connectivity as either *good or excellent* during the current round of training sessions. Furthermore, there was no need for technical assistance at any of the schools during the current round of training sessions.

vi) We were pleased that Northern Cape Department of Education (NCDOE) officials (3) attended at least one of the two training sessions. It is most important for the project teachers to see that the programme is being supported by NCDOE.

- Conclusion

While the training sessions were well supported by the teachers and their schools, we were somewhat concerned about the levels of absenteeism (15%) during this round of training. We were however pleased with the number of teachers who watched the recordings of the training sessions. The high levels of interest in the BCP and motivation to run the programme were very encouraging. We were however concerned about the overall level of departmental involvement (before and after) in the training sessions. We intend to follow up and discuss many of these issues with the officials concerned. It cannot however be ignored that the project is being run in the context of a global pandemic and that some of the difficulties being experienced might in fact be as a

result of the current health crisis. We should note that at the time of the training sessions, the Northern Cape Province was starting to experience what some consider the beginning of the 3rd Covid-19 wave in South Africa. We in fact owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the educators who have on the whole been very positive and enthusiastic participants in the project.