



BASIC CONCEPTS FOUNDATION


A Presentation for Mpumalanaga Project Partners (April 2024)

The Kwena Basin Extension Project
In partnership with The Kwena Literacy and Library Project within the JCE Trust
(2025 - 2028)



A presentation for the:





Basic Concepts
Building Thinking - Harnessing Potential
Foundation


E: luisben@iafrica.com W: www.basicconcepts.co.za C: 084 857 8763

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The Kwena Basin Extension Project
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Project Overview

The project aims to systematically improve the *language, cognition and scholastics* of Grade R to Grade 3 learners in two lead schools in the *Emakhazeni Circuit*, Mpumalanga, by focusing on the quality of teaching and learning. The BCP will be used as a common approach to develop and extend the prerequisites for learning in the Intermediate Phase. The pilot project with Mpumalanga DoE aims to train officials during its progress to expand its impact to schools in the district and beyond.



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A BASIC CONCEPTS PROJECT FOR THE KWENA BASIN EDUCATION TRUST (2014 – 2018)



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Schools

<p>Klipspruit Combined Primary School</p> 	<p>Pakama Primary School</p> 
<p>Umthombopholie Primary School</p> 	<p>Enkeldoorn Primary School</p> 



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A BASIC CONCEPTS PROJECT FOR THE KWENA BASIN EDUCATION TRUST (2014 – 2018)

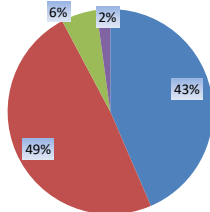


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THE BASIC CONCEPTS PROGRAMME (BCP) A PROJECT FOR THE KWENA BASIN EDUCATION TRUST (2014 -2018)


Baseline Data

Test of Basic Concepts Knowledge: Learners in Grade 1 – 3, 2014 (n=232)



- Very weak
- Weak
- Average
- Strong

The results of this school readiness test are very concerning particularly for children in Grade 3 who will be learning in English in Grade 4.

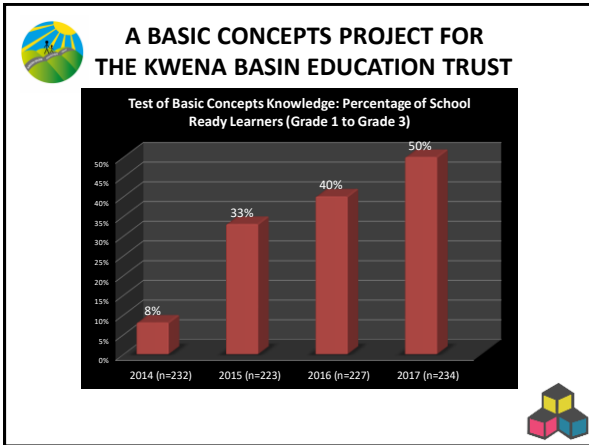


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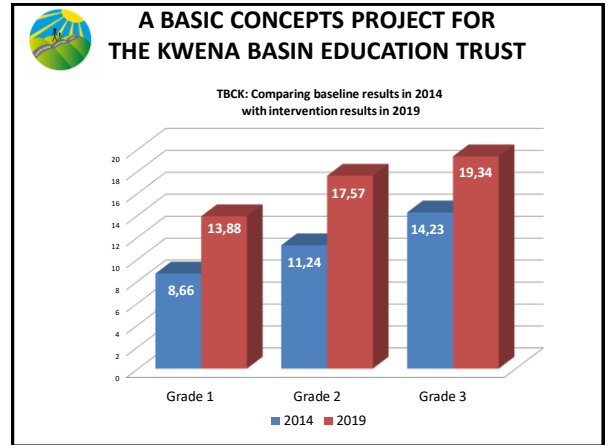
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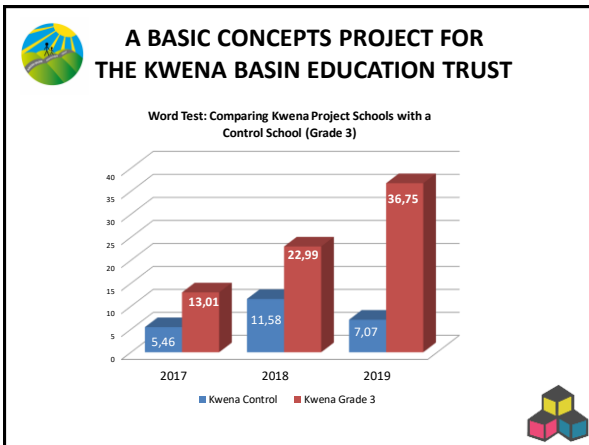
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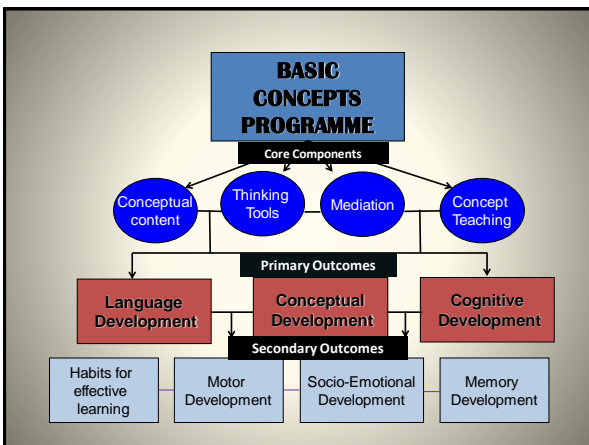


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The BASIC CONCEPTS PROGRAMME
 is a comprehensive, developmental
 intervention programme for young
 children who have experienced
 significant educational disruptions and
 come from disadvantaged
 communities.

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4 Core Components of the Basic Concepts Programme

1. CONTENT OF THE BASIC CONCEPTS PROGRAMME


HIGHER ORDER CONCEPTS

COLOUR SHAPE SIZE POSITION NUMBER LETTER

LOWER ORDER CONCEPTS

RED	CIRCLE	BIG	LEFT	MORE	A,B,C,D
YELLOW	TRIANGLE	SMALL	RIGHT	LESS	E,F,G,H
GREEN	RECTANGLE	BIGGER	TOP	1,2,3,4,5	SIZE
BLUE	SQUARE	SMALLER	MIDDLE	YES AND NO	CAPITAL & SMALL LETTERS
BLACK	DIAMOND	MEDIUM	BOTTOM	3+4=7	
BROWN	STAR	UP	DOWN	7-4=3	

2. MEDIATIONAL TEACHING



3. BASIC CONCEPTS TEACHING MODEL

1. SEEING
2. IDENTIFYING
3. INTERNALISING
4. BRIDGING
5. APPLICATION
6. TRANSFERRING

4. Thinking Tools

COLOUR Match & Compare	SHAPE Plan & Categorize
SIZE Sort	POSITION Perspective Taking
NUMBER	LETTER

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(April 2024)

Health&Science

The Anti-Cholesterol Diet. How the right foods can lower your lipids

By **Alicia Park**

Can you eat your way to lower cholesterol levels? Absolutely, yes.

While a good diet alone does a great job of reducing the amount of cholesterol in your blood, a new study finds that it's also possible to get some of the same heart-healthy benefits from by eating foods that are rich in soluble fiber.

The study included 100 people with high cholesterol levels. Some were given a diet rich in a cholesterol-lowering foods like oats, beans, other and plant oils. Other participants received a diet that was low in cholesterol. After 12 weeks, the researchers found that the group that ate the diet rich in soluble fiber had a 30% reduction in cholesterol levels, while the group that ate the diet low in cholesterol had a 15% reduction.

The study is the first to show that eating a diet rich in soluble fiber can help reduce cholesterol levels in people with high cholesterol. The researchers also found that the diet rich in soluble fiber helped improve the overall health of the participants.

8.7 million


Number of species on earth, including 2 million on land and 6.7 million in the oceans. The more we learn, the more we discover.



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Words, words and more words... big ones and small ones, colourful and dull ones, long words and short words, simpler ones and more complex ones, but all important.

There is not a moment that goes by that we do not have to reach into our basic concepts boxes to help us...find, describe, explain, instruct, report, analyze, infer, deduce and understand.

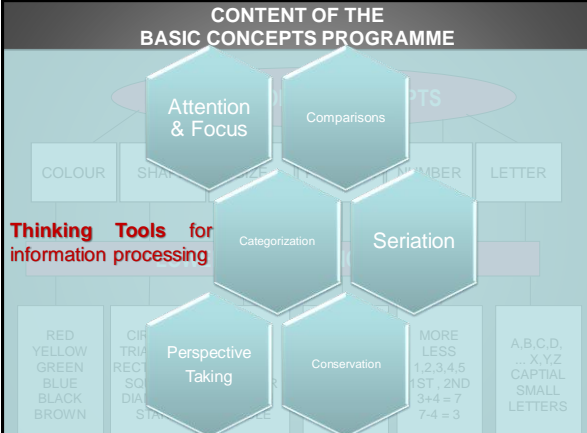


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CONTENT OF THE BASIC CONCEPTS PROGRAMME

Thinking Tools for information processing

- Attention & Focus
- Comparisons
- Classification
- Ordering
- Number
- Letter
- Color
- Shape
- Size
- Position
- Sound
- Perspective Taking
- Conservation
- More Less
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
- 3+4=7
- 7-4=3
- A, B, C, D, ... X, Y, Z
- CAPITAL SMALL LETTERS

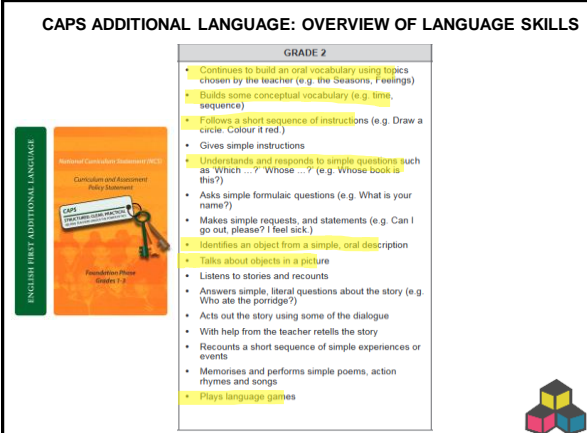


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CAPS ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE: OVERVIEW OF LANGUAGE SKILLS

GRADE 2

- Continues to build an oral vocabulary using topics chosen by the teacher (e.g. the Seasons, Feelings)
- Builds some conceptual vocabulary (e.g. time, sequence)
- Follows a short sequence of instructions (e.g. Draw a circle. Colour it red.)
- Gives simple instructions
- Understands and responds to simple questions such as Which...? Whose...? (e.g. Whose book is this?)
- Asks simple formulaic questions (e.g. What is your name?)
- Makes simple requests, and statements (e.g. Can I go out, please? I feel sick.)
- Identifies an object from a simple, oral description
- Talks about objects in a picture
- Listens to stories and recounts
- Answers simple, literal questions about the story (e.g. Who ate the porridge?)
- Acts out the story using some of the dialogue
- With help from the teacher retells the story
- Recounts a short sequence of simple experiences or events
- Memorises and performs simple poems, action rhymes and songs
- Plays language games



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Building Thinking - Harnessing Potential

View Our New Video About Our Work
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfnArlUYwZ8>



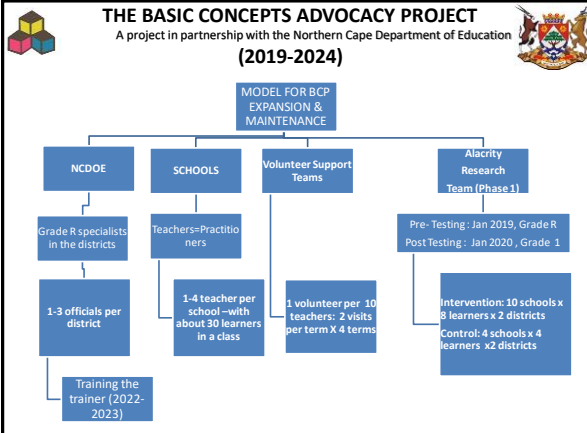
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THE BASIC CONCEPTS ADVOCACY PROJECT

A project in partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Education (2019-2024)

MODEL FOR BCP EXPANSION & MAINTENANCE

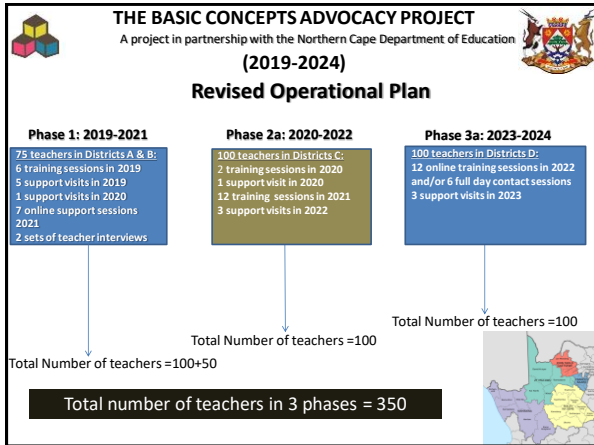
- NCDOE
- SCHOOLS
- Volunteer Support Teams
- Ability Research Team (Phase 1)
- Grade R specialists in the districts
- Teachers=Practitioners
- Pre-Testing: Jan 2019, Grade R
- Post-Testing: Jan 2020, Grade 1
- 1-3 officials per district
- 1-4 teacher per school—with about 30 learners in a class
- 1 volunteer per 10 teachers: 2 visits per term X 4 terms
- Intervention: 10 schools x 8 learners x 2 districts
- Control: 4 schools x 4 learners x 2 districts
- Training the trainer (2022-2023)



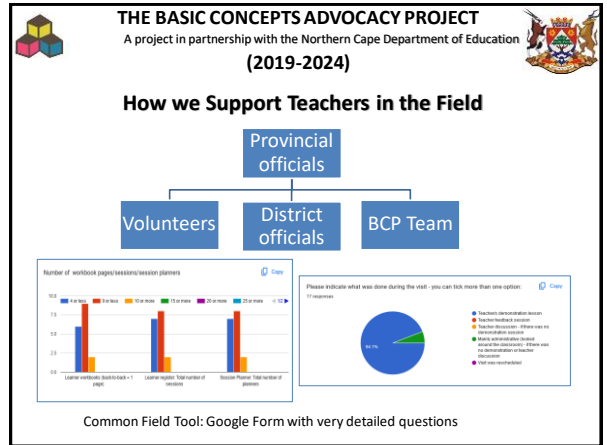
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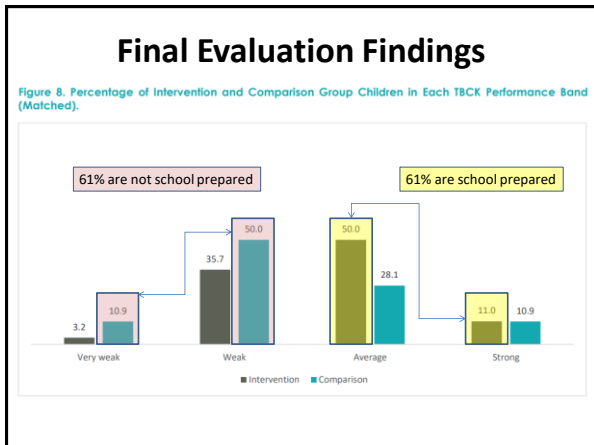
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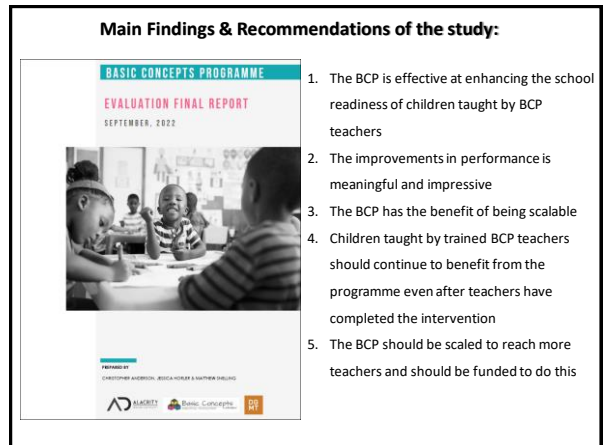
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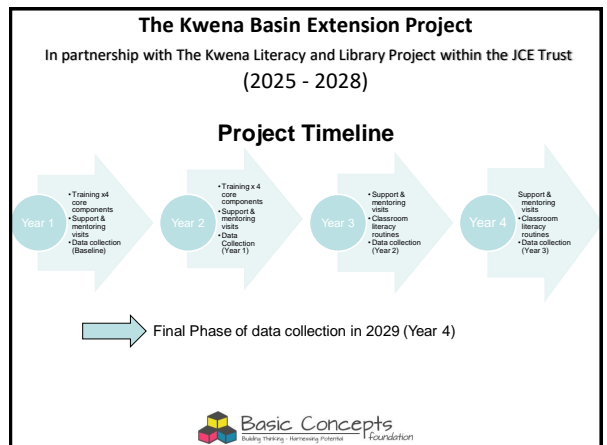
Lead Project Schools

School's Name	Location	Foundation Phase Learners	Proposed Teacher Trainees	Previously Trained Teachers	Proposed Project Volunteer/s
Ukwezi Primary School	Belfast, Mpumalanga	819	21	1	2
Kwena Combined School	Bardfontein, Mpumalanga	260	4	1	1



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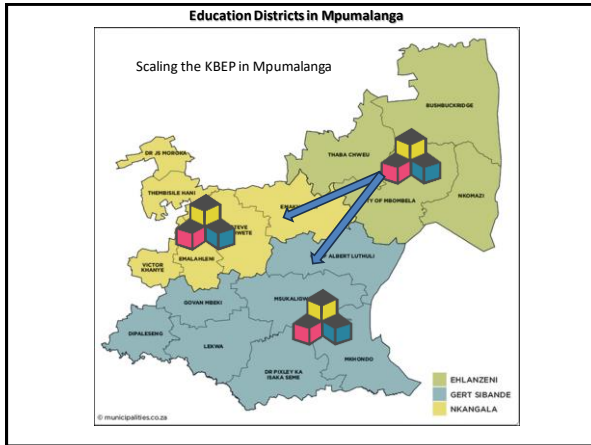
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Project Budget

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Personnel	280800	304200	325200	356400
Travel & accom	115000	126500	138000	148500
Programme resources	82500	25500	28000	30300
External evaluation	8500	9350	10500	11500
Direct admin	34800	42300	49800	57180
Indirect admin	30000	36000	42000	48000
TOTAL	551600	543850	593500	651880

R520 per learner/teacher/volunteer/doe official investment over 4 years

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What do teachers say about the BCP:-

'Children's language has developed well, talking in full sentences and using conceptual vocabulary correctly.'

'The BCP is my lifeline now... most of my learners are intervention learners.'

'I want to encourage other teachers to also do the programme as it compliments CAPS.'

'A fantastic learning programme that promotes mental development in children, enhancing their skills and knowledge across various domains simultaneously.'

'Its application in my B.Ed foundation phase studies has yielded incredibly positive outcomes. Grateful for the education in this programme.'

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The Basic Concepts Programme Materials

Manual and Cognitive Tool Kit + Picture Sets

BC Mediator's Manual

The manual includes:

- background and introduction to the programme
- a detailed outline of 48 BC Sessions
- a set of tools to support the implementation of the programme: evaluating, and monitoring sheets
- a set of BCs Transfer Worksheets
- a set of useful Appendices

The manual is available in English and Afrikaans.

Cognitive Tool Kit + Picture Sets

The cognitive tool kit was specially designed for the programme. The materials were carefully selected to assist with the enhancement of cognitive development of younger children. The cognitive tool kit consists of 5 Material Sets and 13 Picture Sets.

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The Basic Concepts Programme Materials

Posters and Training Files

BC Posters

6 posters (one per conceptual domain) have been created for teacher-mediators of the BCP. The posters have been created to assist teachers with the small group activities that accompany the BCP inside the classroom. The A3 posters are printed in colour and laminated.

Mediator Training Files

The trainee mediators are each given their own files that includes 6 sets of training notes, 6 templates for small group activities as well as project assessment, planning, monitoring and recording templates. The files include approximately 80 back-to-back printed pages.

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THE BASIC CONCEPTS PROGRAMME

A Metacognitive Programme For Young Children Who Experience Barriers Towards Learning In The Foundation Phase

A Programme Developed By:
Louis Benjamin, Ph.D.

Cell: 084 857 8763
Website: www.basicconcepts.co.za
Email: louisben@iafrica.com

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