

**BCs Advocacy Project**

Phase 1: 2019-2021

**Teacher Comments About the Basic Concepts Programme**

**What did teachers say about their overall experience of the BCP?**

(The following themes were drawn from teacher interviews in May and November 2021)

**Theme 1:** Use of language inside the classroom

The majority of teachers mentioned language development and language usage inside their classrooms and beyond. This seemed to be the most positive benefit of the programme according to the teachers.

 *‘Pupils are responding well in terms of full sentences. Their language has developed.’*

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

*‘They (the learners) are willing to speak and even when they do the news in the morning.’*

*‘They (the learners) can now talk to their parents about things they see in the environment when they go on outings.’*

‘Now they have the conceptual language to describe their environment by comparing and differentiating …they are so successful.’

‘The programme helps to improve their language and vocabulary and to respond to questions and they even challenge me with questions.’

‘I can give complex instructions and they can follow these instructions. Each child is given a chance and they can all participate.’

**Theme 2:** The benefits of the BCP for teachers

These teachers made positive comments about the BCP and how it was aiding them in the classroom or had changed their approach to teaching.

*‘The BCP has helped me a lot (and particularly with my) teaching and also with my studies.’*

*‘The BCP is my lifeline now... most of my learners are intervention learners.’*

*‘I want to encourage other teachers to also do the program as it compliments CAPS.’*

*‘I am positive about the BCP because it is aligned with CAPS and it is a tool to use inside the classroom.’*

*‘I have developed as a teacher and I'm able to notice and assist the individual child with their challenges.’*

*‘It helped me as a teacher because I've learnt to use questions to (elicit) responses from my learners.’*

*‘I have learnt how to teach the learners and how to keep them focused and interested.’*

*‘I like the programme very much and especially the Internalising step.’*

*‘I have learned how to help my struggling learners by mediating more … to help them to understand concepts. I have improved a lot as a teacher.’*

*‘The Basic Concepts Programme has really saved my learners this year.’*

**Theme 3:** The benefits of the BCP for learners

These teachers made comments about the overall benefits of the programme for their learners.

‘The stronger children are even helping the weaker children…’

‘The children are making good progress. The learners are learning a lot.’

‘Children are coming out of their shells and responding better now.’

‘The Concept Teaching Model really helps... it also helps the children to understand the concepts and they can respond and they can make up their own stories and it encourages them to speak up.’

‘The learners have become used to the structure and the questions in the sessions.’

‘The learners are really excited about the programme. Their self-esteem has improved and they are socializing more with their peers.’

‘I wish they could just let us teach basic concepts because it allows a child to think and use his or her mind.’

**Theme 4:** The impact of COVID on teaching and learning

These teachers made comments about how COVID had had a direct negative impact on teaching and learning.

 ‘Absenteeism due to covid influenced the pace of the programme.’

‘Leaners are often absent which is a big problem. My class is divided into 2 groups, so I often had to repeat work. It is very frustrating.’

‘At the beginning of the year it was really tough... I had a number of health issues. I did not run the programme so often then... I was hospitalized with covid and afterwards, I was always tired in class.’

‘The pandemic caused abnormal conditions in the classroom.’

*‘The learners are struggling because of the pandemic and absenteeism. When they come to school they have forgotten everything that was taught.’*

*‘There are some children who have just registered (May 2021), but it is going a bit better now. ‘They (the learners) are missing a lot of school.’*

*‘The children have to social distance and this makes it difficult to teach them.’*