



# Supporting ECD Centres to Grow and Thrive!

## Term 1 Newsletter

At SAEP, we are committed to ensuring that every child gets the best start on their journey to success. This term, we've made incredible strides in empowering Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners and strengthening support systems for young children.





**Big smiles and even bigger thanks to Homechoice and Community Chest!**

Last week, **75 Early Childhood Development Centres** received crucial resources including cots, baby highchairs, and nappy changing mats.

This generous sponsorship will significantly enhance the daily care and learning environments for countless young children.

We are deeply grateful for the support that allows us to continue nurturing our future leaders. Together, we are making a profound difference!



**Social Work Support: Safeguarding Our Children**

Our dedicated Social Worker and Social Auxiliary Worker visited 146 ECD centres, identifying 27 children at risk due to challenges such as abuse, domestic violence, malnutrition, and developmental delays. Key cases included:

- A child suffering from sexual abuse and another displaying concerning behaviour highlighting the urgent need for parental education on child protection.
- Five children lacking birth registrations, limiting access to education and essential services.
- A child exposed to domestic violence, struggling with emotional security in class.
- Seven children exhibiting violent or erratic behaviour due to trauma.
- Thirteen children with developmental delays, including one diagnosed with autism.



**Safe and Thriving Parental Engagement and Strengthening Families**

Parents are a child's first teacher, which is why SAEP conducted **two vital workshops, empowering 53 parents** with strategies to:

- ➔ Understand trauma and its effects on children and themselves.
- ➔ Equip their children with coping mechanisms for stress and trauma.
- ➔ Foster everyday learning in language and mathematics at home.





## Empowering ECD Practitioners

Through nine transformative training workshops, we provided 238 ECD practitioners with essential skills to enhance early learning. We exceeded our goal of training 60 practitioners, demonstrating the growing impact of our program. Topics covered included:

- National Curriculum Framework (NCF) & Early Learning Development
- Literacy and Language Development
- Cognitive and Emotional Development
- Social-Emotional Learning & Trauma-Informed Approaches
- Parental Engagement in Everyday Learning

*"This training showed me how to make storytelling magical! By using creative techniques, I can now captivate my class, making them listen with wide-eyed wonder and fully engage in every tale."*  
One Nation Educare

*"I'm excited to bring stories to life with puppets, visuals, and even songs! These tools will make reading time not just educational, but a joyful adventure for my little ones."*



*"Thank you, SAEP, for this eye-opening training! Learning about the ELDAS and other tools has inspired me to transform my classroom. I can't wait to see how these changes will shape my children's learning journey."*



## Environmental Education program: Hope Scholars Program

### Stepping into Learning!

Sophumelela High School laced up their hiking boots and joined the Mountain Club South Africa for an educational hike. Part of our Environmental Youth Program, this adventure blended physical activity with environmental learning, creating a powerful connection between students and nature. We can't wait for more such explorations that inspire and educate!

### Greyton Overnight Hike

This past weekend, our scholars embarked on an unforgettable overnight hike in Greyton! They immersed themselves in nature's breathtaking beauty, reflected on conservation, and discussed their role in protecting our environment for future generations. Teaching young minds to care for nature goes beyond preservation it's about instilling a mindset where sustainability becomes second nature.



### Exploring Biodiversity with Future Changemakers

At Solomon Qatyana Primary School, students and teachers discovered the wonders of biodiversity through our People and Plants workshop. Learners explored the interconnectedness of humans, plants, and animals, while teachers gained fresh insights to enhance their environmental lessons. By fostering curiosity and appreciation for biodiversity, we're planting the seeds for a more sustainable and conscious future. **"In nature, nothing exists alone."** Rachel Carson

### Expanding Eco-Schools to three new primary schools

As we close an incredible first term, SAEP's Environmental Education program is soaring! We're expanding Eco-Schools to three new primary schools (St. Augustine, Solomon Qatyana, Khanya) and three new high schools (Langa Secondary, Kulani Secondary, Isilimela).

### Big wins!

Vukani Primary earned GOLD in WESSA, and KwaFaku Primary secured SILVER, a testament to our schools' dedication. Additionally, five high schools are joining the Young Reporters for the Environmental Education, including Sophumelela and Zisukhanyo Secondary School.



*These achievements prove the power of education and action! With the right support, we can do even more.*



*"Your environmental conscious and projects sound like a true team effort, while your school's commitment to Eco-Schools initiatives is admirable and incredibly motivating."*  
WESSA, 2025



## A Future Secured: SAEP's Support for Amahle

At SAEP, we know that no child should have to face life's challenges alone. Amahle Xokashe, a young girl born with cerebral palsy, is a testament to the importance of family support, community care, and the power of social work in helping children navigate obstacles that could otherwise deny them their future.

After losing her mother in 2023, Amahle faced an uncertain future. Despite her grandmother's care, she lacked a birth certificate, leaving her without legal recognition. When the principal of Ntabesinayi Educare reached out, SAEP intervened. A social worker helped begin Amahle's birth registration, securing her legal status and place in society.

Amahle's journey highlights the power of community, resilience, and SAEP's commitment to ensuring no child is left behind. With the support of her grandmother, her school, and SAEP, Amahle now has a path to a brighter, more secure future.



## Your Impact Matters

**Thanks to your support, we are breaking down barriers to education and creating safe, nurturing environments where children can learn, grow, and thrive.**

Through Early Childhood Development, we are laying strong foundations for lifelong learning. Our Environmental Champions & Environmental Education initiatives empower young minds to protect and sustain our planet. With Digital Literacy programs, we are equipping children with essential skills for the future.



**Stay connected  
with SAEP!  
Follow our journey and  
continue making a  
difference.  
Thank you for being part  
of this mission!**

**DONATE NOW**



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The South African Education Project (SAEP) is a non-profit organisation (NPO 028 310), based in Cape Town, South Africa. Since 1994, we have provided education, life skills, and psycho-social support programmes for children youth and education providers.