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Khaya's kids splash out

A group of children from Harare, Khayelitsha, took the plunge at their very first swimming lesson in February and, with a little coaxing and a lot of support, it wasn't long before they were happily splashing about.



Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Grassroots Soccer, a sports education NPO, both based in Khayelitsha, came together to offer swimming lessons to children in resource-poor communities, with Sikhula Sonke's group of future champions taking to the water to launch the project.

"We value this partnership immensely, and appreciate Grassroots' willingness to involve our ECD outreach children. Emthonjeni children typically have few opportunities to learn to swim or even participate in organised sports in the communities they live in," says Mdebuka Mtwazi, Executive Director of Sikhula Sonke.

"Well done to Babalwa Momoti, our Emthonjeni Team Leader, and Nokuzola Mathiso of Grassroots, and all the swimming instructors. We are delighted by their enthusiasm and welcome this opportunity to promote water safety in the area."



Report back on page 3

Farm visit for FCM

Children from Sikhula Sonke's Family Community Motivator Programme and Emthonjeni Outreach Playgroup Programme enjoyed their first quarter educational outing to a small farm in Tamboerskloof (upper Cape Town).

The children related very well to the garden and the gardener took some time to show children how to grow vegetables. The children were also delighted to see and meet different animals on the farm.



This kind of hands-on experience really enhances children's development and our fieldworkers have done exceptionally well to prepare and organise these outings. Special thanks to Winkie Cebisa for being instrumental in facilitating FCM's farm visit.

From the Executive Director's desk

What a busy start to 2014 - we already feel as though it's midyear!!!

Is this because the government is putting more emphasis on early childhood development? Or because the sector itself is becoming more pro-active and making early childhood development everybody's business? We can ask all sorts of questions but the reality is that early childhood development is the start of the future of the future citizens and decision makers of this country.

We have seen a strong move globally in investing in the early (formative) years of individuals, rather than waiting to mend broken adults.

South Africa as a nation is also playing a significant role in children's development, despite the mountain of challenges we face. I think that we all have a collective responsibility to support positive actions around ECD, whether from government, CBOs, civil society or other service providers like Sikhula Sonke.

My biggest take in this first quarter of the year is that the City Of Cape Town is key to the provision of early childhood development services, particularly in areas like Khayelitsha. Their role incorporates educating the smaller

ECD sites about the City's ECD policy as well as its laws, by-laws and regulations, in addition to the provision of essential services.

Lastly, I would like to call upon everyone who is involved in ECD to apply his or her knowledge, skills, attitude and any other available resources towards protecting and developing our children for the future benefit of this country. We need you.

Warm regards,

Mdebuka Mtwazi



"It takes a whole village to raise a child."
- African saying

Imbewu programme launch

Sikhula Sonke's board met in November 2013 to pray and consolidate strategic direction for the organisation in 2014. This foundation greatly assisted our annual staff operational planning time at Monwabisi Resort in early January.

Sikhula Sonke is excited to announce the launch of the (refreshed) Imbewu Training and Support programme. Imbewu, meaning "seed" in Xhosa, now combines our Basic Teacher Training and Coach Support programmes.

Imbewu is one of the anchors of Sikhula Sonke's early childhood development interventions.



Staff expressed their belief in the importance of "sowing good seed" and affirmed their commitment to investing in Khayelitsha's ECD practitioners.

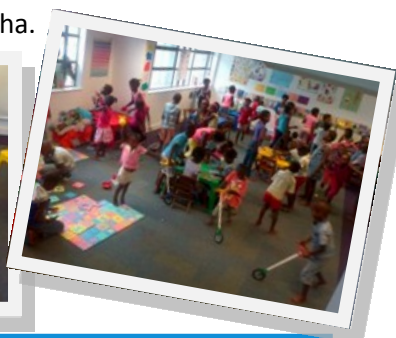
The Toy Library in action

Funda Udlale Toy library has been buzzing with joy and excitement since opening this year.

Abonga and Simbongile (the library guys) have been hard at work as they introduce the library to members of the Harare community by taking the toy library to open spaces.

Shoppers were happy to leave their children with the Sikhula Sonke team and also registered their children for the toy library service.

The toy library is also attracting a lot of Grade R and Grade 1 children, proving that the opportunity to learn through play is a valuable and relevant resource to the children of Khayelitsha.





EXCITE CONFERENCE 3 & 4 APRIL 2014

DAY 1: ECD PRINCIPALS | DAY 2: ECD PRACTITIONERS

Sikhula Sonke was honoured to host the first Excite Conference in Khayelitsha.

On the third of April Sikhula Sonke invited **Khayelitsha's ECD principals** to a full and informative day of presentations, discussions and networking, facilitating an opportunity for principals to connect with the Service Providers of the city. Sessions were hosted by:

- * Sikhula Sonke ECD
- * Khayelitsha ECD Forum
- * Department of Social Development
- * City of Cape Town
- * Land Use Management Department
- * Fire Department
- * Western Cape Service Providers Forum

The day started at 08h00 and concluded at 16h30. This was a great opportunity to connect with representatives of the presenting organisations and ask questions, find out ECD practical requirements and network with other principals. Fifty five principals attended, hosted by our excellent team of Sikhula Sonke staff.

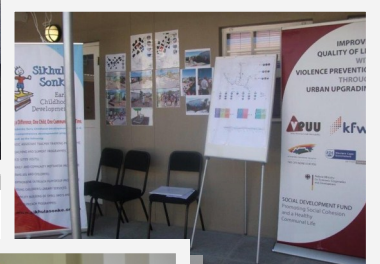
The following day **Khayelitsha's ECD practitioners** participated in an exciting day of learning, discussion and workshops. Attendees were given the opportunity to invest in their teaching skills and connect with other teachers and caregivers.

Presenters included:

- * Think Twice - building children with self worth
- * Nal'ibali - literacy development simplified
- * Persona Dolls - and their place in learning
- * Toy-making made easy
- * Foundation for Community Work (FCW)
- * Funda Udlale - a toy library resource for all
- Grassroots Educare Trust
- Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading

In addition, each of the 60 attendees was given a box of ECD resources to take home, as well as an A3 laminated poster that they could use to help children in their numbers, writing, understanding emotions and learning about weather and seasons.

Our thanks to all who presented and participated!



SIKHULA SONKE ECD IN ACTION

Sikhula Sonke has four active early childhood development-related programmes, reaching out to Khayelitsha's children, caregivers and families.

- The **Funda Udlale Library Project** provides a range of educational toys and books, individually and through ECD centres;
- **Emthonjeni** is a community-based programme, offering ECD sessions out in the open, around the communal water taps of the informal settlements (hence the name, which means 'well');
- The **Family Community Motivators Programme** takes ECD interventions into individual households, with its main goal being a reduction in the number of children who do not access early childhood development services;
- The **Imbewu Training, Coaching and Support Programme** actively trains and supports enrolled ECD practitioners.

Partner with us

Sikhula Sonke is wholly funded by donations. Would you consider partnering with us in reaching the children of Khayelitsha and giving them a solid foundation to start their school years?

We have a track record of faithfulness in our spending, and are happy to share our financial information with you.

All donations can be EFT'd directly to our account.

Sikhula Sonke

Bank: ABSA Bank

Account Number: 405 820 4765

Account Type: Current

Branch: Claremont

Branch Code: 632005

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the donors and funders who made our first Excite conference possible, donating toy boxes, backpacks for ECD workers, stationery, spot prizes, and vouchers:

Metropolitan Life, the Westin hotel, Shoprite and Pick 'n Pay.



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For more information, please visit our website: www.sikhulasonke.org

Sikhula Sonke offers free early childhood development, training and support to parents, caregivers and pre-school teachers of young children in Khayelitsha.

