

Music Wall



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

MISSION

For every child to attend a safe registered preschool, with qualified competent teachers, where literacy, numeracy and life-skill lessons happen daily, and training, on-site mentoring and support to teachers and parents ensure all children reach crucial developmental outcomes.

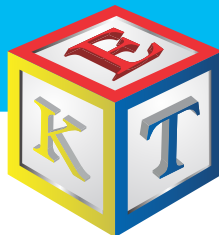
To achieve our mission the organisation will

- Provide SETA accredited Early Childhood Development training to student teachers.
- Develop and entrench mathematical concepts in preschool children through the NUMICON mathematics programme.
- Develop and entrench literacy acquisition in preschool children through the FONIX literacy programme.
- Maintain nutritional support programmes to promote healthy physical development for young children in preschools.
- Provide access to preschools for disadvantaged children by facilitating a fee payment support programme, linking sponsors to qualifying parents, through the Adopt-a-Child's Education project.
- Support backyard care groups, home-based creches and community preschools to reach health and safety norms enabling them to meet Department of Social Development registration requirements.
- Maximise the first 1000 days of development in a child's life through educational engagements with caregivers and parents and through strengthening support groups for young at risk mothers.
- Provide training and onsite support and mentoring to ECD practitioners in the use and implementation of the KET ECD teacher capacity building programme, to ensure age, language and developmentally appropriate lessons and assessment methods are being implemented in all classrooms.
- Provide IT infrastructure capability to all affiliated preschools, to improve administration and storage of registration documentation, staff and children information, and completion of DSD attendance registers.
- Strengthen ECD stakeholder partnerships to support income generation through programme scale-up roll out nationally.
- Professionally manage donor funding to ensure that the children remain the ultimate beneficiaries of programmes and services.

VISION: Ensuring young children thrive through quality Early Childhood Development programmes, competent teachers and caregivers, in safe, healthy and enriched learning environments.

www.knysnaedutrust.co.za  /knysnaedutrust  @KnysnaEduTrust

Telephone: +27 (0)44 382 4638
Email: admin@knysnaedutrust.co.za
Physical Address: 27 Market Street, Knysna, 6571
Postal Address: PO Box 3579, Knysna, 6570,
 South Africa



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 THE GREATEST GIFT IS THE GIFT OF LEARNING



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NPO 004-286

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW



The early moments of life offer an unparalleled opportunity to develop the brains of the children who will build the future South Africa.

Investment into these early years ensures children thrive to become productive members of society, reducing the burden on welfare services, and reversing the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage that hinders the equitable growth and prosperity of a country.

The Knysna Education Trust (KET) has been providing essential services to the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector since 1993. Interventions are based on a belief that an essential package of ECD services is needed to support the overall development of children. Programmes and projects implemented have targeted outcomes, and ensure children reach age-appropriate developmental milestones in all areas: cognitive, emotional, physical and social.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS:

- **Literacy, Numeracy, and Life-skills development in the classroom preparing children for formal schooling.**
- **Access to Early Childhood Education for all children through fee support for qualifying families.**
- **Nutritional support to promote healthy physical development and prevent stunting.**
- **Government registration of ECD facilities to ensure safe learning environment for children.**
- **Skills development, formal training, and on-site support ensuring competent and passionate educators.**

KET works hand in hand with affiliated preschools, providing on-site support, mentoring and training to teachers and principals. This ensures programmes are delivered according to best practice guidelines, and educators feel supported in their roles.

Children enjoy daily literacy, numeracy and life-skills lessons. Learning through play is an important part of the child's daily preschool routine in preparing for formal schooling. All research indicates that a quality preschool education is essential for a child to succeed not only in formal schooling but also in all forms of learning throughout life.

The structured approach provided by KET is a key factor behind the almost 60 % of affiliated ECD sites achieving either partial or full registration with the Department of Social Development. KET has stringent policies in place to guard against a "hand-out" approach. Projects and services are structured to be a "hand up" for beneficiaries, which is the key to the long-term sustainability of KET's work.



Our projects can also be viewed on our website at www.knysnaedutrust.co.za.

NUMICON is a fun and structured classroom programme which uses a multi-sensory approach for children to explore essential mathematical concepts. The programme focuses on 24 specifically designed, practical activities which are easy to teach and use within a preschool classroom.



Various senses are engaged to make abstract mathematical concepts "real" by allowing children to see, feel touch and move 'numbers' as they learn. Each activity encompasses not only mathematical concepts, but enhances perceptual, fine-motor and language development. Additionally, each activity can be simplified or extended to suit the learning pace of the individual child. KET has distributed NUMICON kits to 75 affiliated pre-schools in the Knysna Plettenberg Bay area. Through funded partnership projects, with ECD organisations nationally, a further 22 preschools are now using the programme. Feedback from the field continues to verify the programme's highly successful impact.

THE INTENSIVE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (IIP)

is a pilot research project, initiated by the Department of Social Development. The focus of the project is to provide targeted support to children identified as being at risk of not meeting the age appropriate learning outcomes for Grade RR.



The project comprises 4 phases, namely pre-screening and identification of at risk children; customised therapeutic interventions by highly trained professionals; parent involvement through educational engagement and, post-therapy screening and assessment feedback.

Three KET ECD teachers, and two occupational therapists provide at risk children two 45 minute therapy sessions per week, for 8 months. The project goal is for learners graduating from ECD sites to Primary schools, to be able to cope with the Grade R learning and development outcomes.

To date, in the first group of 250 identified children, 126 out of 160 children improved their test scores, some even doubling their scores. Data shows an average improvement of 30 % or more in children tested, further highlighting the positive impact that the therapy groups have had on progressing the children's learning and development.

During the first year, 364 parents and caregivers were reached through educational engagements, and onboarded to a mobile application. The app content is aligned with the therapeutic interventions, and provides parents with simple activities to support their child's development in the home. The IIP will enter a second pilot year and round of identification and testing which will no doubt provide further ratification of the intervention's success.

FONIX is a mother-tongue literacy programme which focuses on instilling and entrenching the crucial foundations of emerging literacy in the young child. FONIX uses phonetic principles of language development, in particular, letter-sound correspondence. Using the window of opportunity for language development in a concrete and kinaesthetic manner, with the correct type of equipment, at the right age, and in the correct manner, the programme allows children to grasp the complex skill of learning to read effortlessly.

KET has distributed Fonix kits to 75 affiliated pre-schools in the Knysna Plettenberg Bay area. Through funded partnership projects with ECD organisations nationally, a further 22 preschools are now using the programme. First piloted in 2010, continuous programme impact evaluation and feedback from the field continues to verify the programme's success in literacy development. A master thesis study conducted on the FONIX program can be read on line at: www.kynsnaedutrust.co.za



DSD REGISTRATION To streamline the registration of community ECD sites, the Department of Social Development appointed KET as the preferred Social Service Organisation, within our specific Service Delivery Area (SDA), to facilitate the process of ECD registration on their behalf.

KET has identified 128 ECD sites in the Eden Karoo area. Census figures indicate that a potential 8000 children, under the age of 6 years live in this SDA. 48% Percent of these children are in recorded preschools. The goal is to locate and assist further preschools and children, to ensure access to preschool education for all children in the area.

It is essential for ECD sites to comply with the minimum norms and standards set out by the various Government departments, to ensure preschools are safe places for young children.

This is a daunting challenge for the majority of community based ECD sites. The cost of meeting the various health and safety certificate requirements, infrastructure regulations, while employing qualified teachers, is often financially and logistically unachievable.

KET's systematic and supportive approach has been positively received by ECD sites with many centres progressing along the path to registration. The goal is to register all 128 sites in the Eden Karoo SDA by the end of 2020 financial year. Since KET's formal appointment in October 2017, 6 centres have successfully registered, with a further 26 achieving re-registration.



TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The KET Training Centre has become a hive of learning, laughter, hard work and achievement. Since the inception of the FET Training in June 2016, sixty four students have registered for Level 4 and 5 training. The successful partnership with Professional Child Care College, has made it possible for students in the Eden district to obtain an ETDP SETA accredited formal qualification locally.

Through the support of highly experienced volunteers and visiting lecturers, KET offers a diverse repertoire of facilitation, creating a rich learning environment. The first group of twenty-two Level 4 and nine Level 5 students graduated in November 2017.

Bursary sponsorships from ePap, Rotary Club of Knysna, Rotary Global Grant, Knysna Municipal Bursary Fund and private bursary sponsors has assisted 80% of the of the FET students, who would otherwise not be able to afford access to this high quality ECD qualification.

The KET Training Centre also offers supplementary teacher training such as Stellar Grade R from WordWorks, Inclusive Education from Inclusive Education South Africa, Power of Play from PLAYSA & Cotlands, and First Aid Level 1. During the 2017 year, 380 teachers benefitted from multiple training programmes offered at the KET training centre.



FEEDING SCHEMES

The World Health Organisation has extensively documented the importance of a

balanced diet in relation to the growth and development of a child's brain. Hungry children are unable to reach their full potential. Children who receive a balanced diet on a daily basis are better able to concentrate, and less likely to fall ill, and are more likely to reach age-appropriate physical developmental milestones.

KET currently supports feeding scheme programmes in 17 ECD sites. For the majority of children who benefit from this project, these are often the only meals they will receive in a day. Cooks are trained to develop menus which have maximum nutritional impact, and also fall within allocated budgets. Each preschool draws up a weekly menu and budget, which is submitted to KET and then monitored by regular visits to the preschool.

A partnership with feeding organisation ePap, ensures that children in preschools affiliated to KET receive at least one balanced breakfast meal per day. This is an ongoing programme to support the ever-growing number of affiliated preschools with feeding schemes.



ADOPT-A-CHILD'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Access to Early Childhood Education for children through fee support for qualifying families.

In 2006 KET established the ACE programme to assist the poorest children who are unable to attend preschool due to a lack of funds.

Since inception an average of 250 children and families have been assisted annually.

This programme has grown steadily and currently supports 309 children in 28 ECD centres. This sponsor driven project also enables preschools to receive the financial support needed to sustain their preschools. Children selected for this project are those who are most in need and whose parents or caregivers are committed to ensuring the children receive the education they deserve.

Children who would otherwise be left alone at home to fend for themselves, or are left in the care of an infirm or elderly relative, are now able to attend preschool, and have a real opportunity to succeed in formal schooling.



THE LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL is

KET's model preschool, and practical teacher training centre. The project was made possible through a successful Rotary Global Grant in Aid application, which involved 6 Rotary Clubs from Canada. The Learning tree officially opened its doors in June 2016 with only 10 learners. Managed by the KET Board of Trustees, and supported by an elected Parent Committee, the school has grown to 71 learners and is staffed by a principal, 5 teachers, a cook and caretaker.

The preschool is to be a place of excellence in all aspects, providing a holistic learning environment where children receive age-appropriate developmental support to reach their full potential.

Student teachers are mandated by SAQA to complete practical hours, in a registered facility. Student teachers can learn from best in-classroom practice through supervised teacher training rotations. This practical training enables student teachers to gain experience and confidence in a model classroom environment.

The preschool is registered with the Department of Social Development, and is in the process of being registered as a Grade R feeder school to local primary schools.





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FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Finance Report for The Year Ended 28 February 2018

2018 was a busy and productive year for KET. A major highlight was the opening of our own DSD registered model preschool, The Learning Tree.

In a drive to reduce donor reliance, KET implemented two initiatives to improve sustainability, both of which have come to fruition in the 2018 financial year.

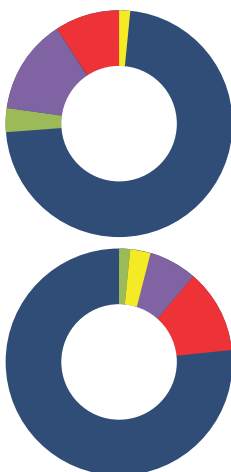
The FET ECD training derives an income from fees charged. Students are supported through allocated bursary funding, which has been boosted this year by contribution from both the corporate sector and other NGO's both locally and internationally. The income from fee-paying students has been encouraging and while many of these students have meagre earnings, their commitment to financial obligations for their studies is nothing short of admirable.

A partnership with the INCEBA Trust, an ECD organisation in the Paarl and Wellington area of Cape Town, has resulted in the rollout of the FONIX literacy, NUMICON mathematics, and the KET ECD teacher capacity building programme. This partnership has secured the rollout of the KET programmes to 22 new ECD sites in the Western Cape, ratifying the applicability of the programme's use, in different languages and regions throughout South Africa.

Establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with donors, through goal achievement, has always been a KET priority. This financial year four long-standing funders have renewed committed for an additional year. Department of Social Development funding has also increased during this period, with the implementation of the IIP Pilot research project.

Total project funding of R 3,050,042 was received for the year with distributions of R 3,054,430 made. Administration and project expenses were kept in line with budgets, which resulted in a surplus of R 623,928 for the year. For further financial detail kindly request a copy of 28 February 2018 Audited Financial Statements.

We look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2019.



2018 INCOME

	Fundraising and sales of resources	2%	62 632
	Grants and donations	72%	2 622 672
	Investment income	3%	120 675
	Rentals, workshops and project management fees	14%	493 696
	The Learning Tree Preschool donations & fees	9%	332 442
	Total		3 632 117

2018 EXPENDITURE

	Finance costs	2%	46 710
	Fundraising and marketing	3%	86 975
	Office costs	7%	205 807
	The Learning Tree	12%	360 773
	Training and capacity building	77%	2 307 924
	Total		3 008 189

300 children were able to access preschool from ACE programme sponsorships

27 NUMICON Mathematics training workshops presented. 256 Teachers received training in the implementation and assessment of this programme.

The Learning Tree Model Preschool was registered and currently has 71 learners

The 64th student teacher registered to obtain a formal FET ECD Preschool Teacher Qualification.

26 FONIX literacy training workshops were presented. 258 Teachers received training in the implementation and assessment of this programme.

828 Children were fed per day in 17 ECD centres. An average of 208 656 meals were provided this year.

Social Media
Facebook: 985 Followers
10 776 Likes
850 Shared Posts
Twitter: 1700 Followers
LinkedIn: 1416 Followers



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WITH SINCERE THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS IN THIS PERIOD

Department of Social Development
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust
HOMECHOICE
The Vilakazi Foundation
Collette Cares group
Carre's Foundation
PG Bison
Rotary International
Rotary Club of Knysna
Knysna Municipality
Doris Ethzel
Le Creuset



The Vilakazi Foundation



Together we can make a difference...