

JUNE 2023



DELFT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Empowered by **PROCHORUS**
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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Last year ended on a high note with our end of year function. We were very encouraged to hear the story of an educator commenting on both her personal and professional growth through her involvement in the Delft ECD project. It was however not only the teachers who received training last year! We also reflect on the successful parent workshops where parents learned how to stimulate gross motor skills, fine motor skills and also encourage responsibility in children through age appropriate chores. One parent commented: *“We had so much fun learning all these things. We really appreciate it and we’ll implement it in the community.”*

This year started off with the smiles of happy headmasters, teachers and parents:

A different kind of meeting

At the beginning of this year all the headmasters of our creches gathered for a year planning meeting. A meeting in the world of ECD can be quite an event and may include the practical learning of the usage of refuge bags for covering clothing in messy activities, the discussion on regulations stipulated by the department of social development for practical compliances within classrooms and also the practical learning of animal walks for the stimulation of core strength in children! I don’t think anyone can fall asleep in such an interesting meeting!



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School visits

By March 2023, twenty of our schools have received a visit from our Occupational Therapist Carla van der Merwe for the purpose of support in regards to the Amazing Brainz program. Two of the headmasters from our first training group were invited to join these visits. In general it is going exceptionally well with our creches! The teachers are enjoying the implementation of the Amazing Brains program and are looking forward to more training throughout the year.

Smart Teaching Training

The smart teaching Training is the program that teachers enrol in to learn how to implement the Amazing Brainz program. One of the challenges that many of the teachers face is writing reports. In April we were able to teach the teachers the importance of both formal and informal progress reporting. Teachers were provided with the opportunity to practise these skills and especially the skill of writing commentary on students progress. All the teachers found these interactive interventions meaningful to their growth as educators.

School visits by Shofar Staff

The Delft Early Childhood Development Project is hoping to create a webpage for every school making use of the Amazing Brainz Curriculum. The websites will include basic location information and other important details that will aid the school, the parents and prospective parents. Melissa le Roux and Marion Erasmus have been visiting the schools to gather information needed for this. During these visits the ladies noticed that several of the schools have been painted in bright colours by a sponsor. Melissa recollected that at one of the schools the children sang the most beautiful songs to their visitors. She expressed the warmth in their hearts as they listened to the beautiful voices of innocent children.

God does not employ bombs to usher in His kingdom and bring about change. He uses leaven. Though unnoticed at first, the leaven eventually transforms the whole mass, (L. Cunningham).

We are grateful for the leaven of knowledge, skills and experience that are shaping the community of Delft. Although progress, especially the progress of touched hearts and minds, cannot always be measured, the transformation that occurs over time will one day, just as brightly as a new painted creche, stare us right in the face.

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