



## Lesedi Educare Association.

### Quarterly Update: Term 1, 2021.

**Lesedi Educare Association opened 2021 with masks on, hands sanitized and all COVID protocols observed! None of it has stopped us getting right in and connecting with our children and communities as soon as we could!**

#### ECD Training + Community Development Training + Enrichment Programme

During the beginning of the year – our training team has been very busy preparing for the virtual verification by the ETD-SETA. We are busy marking practitioners’ portfolios and files. We have managed to mark 5 Community Development groups and 3 ECD groups, making a total of 191 learners.



COVID 19 as we all know forced us to become more tech savvy and so Lesedi’s training has started to go online. Maria – one of our trainers has been recording her lessons, with beautiful learning materials and resources. Our video’s will be uploaded to our very own You Tube channel shortly and will be used by all the trainers around the Free State. Learners will be able to revert back to them for clarity and further information in the future. Esther Maketha has been busy with her learners online, a task far less daunting than this time last year!

#### Edutainers from Heaven!

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Rorisang ECD Centre in Clocolan was generously gifted with an Edutainer, a handwashing station, outside play equipment, a JoJo water tank, fencing. This centre was chosen as part of our partnership with the Bright Kid Foundation and was sponsored by the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation. Esther and Masejane attended the handover and reported that everyone was overwhelmed with excitement and emotion. Tears of gratitude were flowing! They said that the Edutainer is going to make a big difference to the ECD Centre and to the little ones in their care. The ECD Centre has always operated in to the very best of their ability in difficult circumstances. The Parents said it was a precious ‘gift from heaven’.



#### Bus and Mobile ECD Unit Playgroups

After a long holiday, our Come-and-Play buses re-opened on 1 March 2021 with 538 excited children, just 22 short of our Covid maximum. These 22 children will no doubt be recruited as soon as the buses are in a routine and when parents see us operating at full steam!! Needless to say – all the COVID protocols are being observed with each child being screened and santised before they enter the group.

As a side bit of news, we are in the process of registering our playgroups with the Dept. Social Development and will hopefully have news on this in the next Newsletter.



## Presidential ECD Stimulus Package

During March, Lesedi Educare assisted 23 ECD Centres, our own Bus and Mobile Playgroups and 80 SmartStarters with applications for the Presidential ECD Stimulus Package. We truly hope that they will be successful!

## In-Kind donations from Kind Friends.

The first half of this year has also been a good one for in-kind donations to Lesedi Educare. We are extremely grateful for the following donations from old and new friends of Lesedi!

- 2560 beautiful Book Dash story books generously sponsored by the Solon Foundation!
- Office furniture from Telkom – for distribution to our ECD centres in need!
- PEP voucher for winter beanies and gloves for our playgroup children
- Tyres from Interstate Bus Lines for our food gardens. IBL also continue to sponsor fuel, maintenance and annual roadworthy and licensing for our 2 Come-and-Play Buses.
- Continued weekly Woolworths food for our playgroup families.
- The beautiful Toyota Quantum donated by the South African Muslim Charitable Trust (SAMCT) through Kinderfonds CSI, has now been branded and is on the road, reaching children in need!



Woolies flowers for our March birthday children!



## Smart Start

At a glittering virtual Night of the Stars award ceremony in November 2020, Lesedi Educare's Smart Start Team was awarded the Kganya Award – for always looking for ways to maximise their reach and improve delivery. What an achievement for a hard-working team! This is Smart Start in a nutshell for 2020!



- How many SmartStarters? 185
- In what areas? Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, Oppermandorp, Dealesville, Soutpan, Ficksburg, Clocolan, Marquard, Senekal, Rosendal and Ladybrand.
- Reaching how many children? 1236
- Day Care Mums - 7
- Playgroups - 81
- ECD classrooms - 89
- SmartStart ECD classroom – 1
- In the next financial year Smartstart is looking to expand to 6 new towns in the Free State. In May 2020 there is another training session to be held in Bloemfontein, which will push up the number up of children reached.

## Grow Together Garden Project.

We have been lucky to be included in the Kinderfonds Mama's Grow Together Gardening Programme that was launched in response to food sustainability during the COVID19 crisis. To date we have trained 32 gardeners and given each one equipment (fork, compost, 3 trays of seedlings). From these gardeners, 7 community Garden Champions have been identified to motivate and lead new gardeners. We are reaching our playgroup families throughout the Free State and empowering communities to plant their own food. Some of our gardeners have even started selling their produce for an income! IBL (Interstate Bus Lines) has once again joined in and donated 32 bus tyres for planting in, thank you IBL!!!



We look forward to seeing lots of green gardens in our communities!



**Thank you to all our funders, sponsors and partners for their continued support and belief in the work that we are doing! You are truly helping us to make a difference where it matters most .....to young children!**