



Welcome to our Newsletter

Spring is here and we would like to introduce you to our daily Siyakhula Kindergarten. We are based in Masiphumelele, Cape Town. 29 Children make their way to us everyday to Play, eat, Nap, participate in group activities and to just have fun in general. To find out more about our daily routine continue reading!

Our general News: We are constantly working on making the Building the perfect place for our Children. Last year we renovated our Classrooms and the building and we are in the process of getting the registration certificate so that we can continue to create the best possible environment for learning and fun.

Now, let us show you what a Day at Siyakhula looks like.

Inside Play

The inside playtime is their time to chose of what they want to play themselves. They develop their playfulness, using different materials, which are available and suitable for them, such as wooden toys, Kitchen toys, dolls and much more. They discuss what to play with each other and are just imaginative. It is the time for them when a wooden stick becomes a drumstick and a round item becomes a steering wheel.

They do it with Laughter and enjoyment. The Classroom stops being a classroom and starts being whatever place they would like it to be. It is a belief that qualities we value in our adulthood will be fostered here.

They also learn to share their toys with each other. Lots of ideas are shared, others would want to be leaders in a play and they would give each other a character to be.



Morning Ring



While the Children join the morning ring, they learn how to greet one another. Also, they learn Songs and Verses through which they learn different languages like Xhosa and English, in a fun way. Mostly how it works is, the songs and verses get sung and spoken in Xhosa and English so they learn and understand them in those two languages which is important later on, in School, for example. We play games in our Morning Rings as well but any of those things have an important background of how and why we do it how we do. The Games for example have polarities, which develop their Bodies or there

are gestures that have language in it. Also, which is very important, they learn patience through the games because each one of them has to take turns. Coordination gets developed too. For example by throwing and catching a beanbag they learn how to receive and let go again. By doing our finger games, they learn numeracy by counting.

So by doing all those things, which are important for a Child to do, learn about and develop

Them selves, they have fun and enjoy whatever they are doing at the moment.



Cutting Fruits/ Snacks

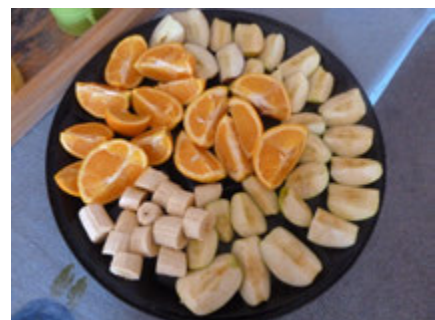


In the Morning, after our morning ring, we select one or two of our Children to help cut the fruits with us. This is part of learning by involving Children in what we, as their teachers do for them.

We share together as Children take the fruit together with a teacher in harmony and Love. This teaches them the respect of sharing what they have with others.

The Fruit Time also makes them have some responsibility because it on them to bring the Fruits to the Kindergarten. Each Day, they are

supposed to bring at least one. It doesn't matter what kind of Fruit it is but mostly they bring Bananas, Oranges or Apples. Sometimes even more than one, which makes them very proud.

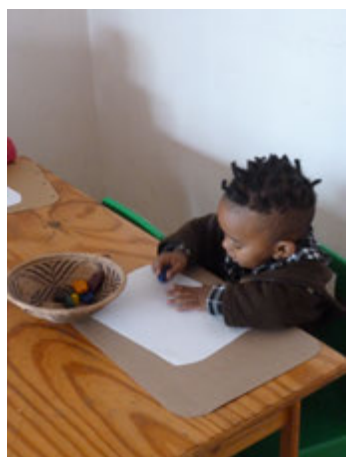


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Stories

Stories develop the inner Self of a Child and also make them aware of the World. They get the ability of creating a Picture in their mind and a skill for creating their way of thinking later on in Life. Also, they develop consciousness of ones speech when telling a Story. Speech builds a Child's vocabulary, helping them develop language skills. When you tell Children a Story, you are feeding their Soul. Some stories can heal them.

Activity



Artistic and practical activities develop the foundation for a good way of how to learn later on in School and Life in general. Besides that, the Children can develop physically, emotionally, social and intellectual. They learn to develop as an individual. Also, they show what has been unfolded. Practical activities such as baking, gardening, hand work and domestic activity that provides opportunities to develop unfold human Capacities.



The younger Children at Siyakhula mostly like to draw their own Pictures with some Bees wax crayons and the older ones like to play with the Play dough. Beautiful things get formed like Flowers, a Handbag, Houses, Garages and much more.

The Creativity gets set free while they are busy doing their activity. By watching them drawing you can see how they develop skills.



Lunch Time

At Lunch Time they all come together and say grace, to give thanks for the food before they eat. For lunch they get a nice warm cooked meal like Rice and Fish, Spaghetti Bolognese, Rice with sweet Potatoes and Cabbage, mashed potatoes and Spinach or other things, which they enjoy a lot. To us it is important to have Silence while the Food gets eaten

just to make them concentrated in what they have in front of them and respect it.



Nap Time

Nap Time starts around 12:30 o'Clock. Our Children take a Nap for about one and a half hour, which is very important for them. A Time where they can rest. This resting time is a huge part of their physical, emotional and intellectual development.

Each Child gets its own Bed, blanket and pillow to rest in, which we as their Teachers prepare while they have their Lunch so that they can get straight into Bed after finishing their food and brushing their Teeth.

We know that developing the Health of a Child is one of the most important things

so we keep all the dishes, pots and anything else we have, clean.

You can even see a difference in a Child's behaviour after it has its resting time and calmed down a little bit. Even for us Teachers this time is very important. We also use it as a resting time, just without a nap.



Snack Time/ Free Choice

Between 14:00 and 14:30 o'clock we wake our Children up. They fold their Blankets tidy the Pillow and Mattress with our help. Once they put on their Shoes they go and take out their Lunchbox, which they are supposed to bring from home.

We believe that too much Sugar and other unhealthy products are not good for Children in general, which is why they are not allowed to bring any kind of Juice, Chips, sweet Yoghurt or similar things to our Kindergarten. We offer Water to drink and have our Fruit Time to give them something sweet and healthy at the same time.

After they finished eating it is the time of a free Choice.

They can play outside on the slide, with a skipping rope, in the sand Box, look at our Books, Play with the puzzles, draw or many more things until they get fetched by their Parents, Siblings or other family members.





Playing at the Park

We normally take the children to the park once a week as long as the Weather is good enough. It is very good for them because it has big enough space for them to run, play with the Ball and enjoy them selves in general. Also, it has all the different big playing equipment like a climbing frame, roundabout, a big slide and so on. They love being there, just look at the pictures.



Festival

We do our Festivals all together, Teachers, Children and Parents. Also the Festivals we celebrate accord the seasons. Each term has it's own Festival. Parents normally join us in two of them, which is the winter festival (St Johns) and the December Festival (Christmas Festival). In these Festivals we do lots of Entertainment for our children, such as acting story, puppet Theatre and sharing soup together.

September 2016, the last Day before our Spring Holidays started, we just celebrated the St. Michaels Festival. We set up the whole upstairs Classroom and decorated it. We had Tables standing in the middle of the Classroom with some

nice coloured table Cloths on them, Candles, Flowers and other decoration.

A few days before that Festival we already prepared Crowns with our Children. Each Child could colour its own how it wanted to and later on us Teachers added some hand made Flowers. They wore them at the Festival and just looked gorgeous.



They got told the Story of St. Michael to understand why we actually celebrate it, by one Teacher and then celebrated the Day with some home made Chocolate Cake and some home made smoothie as a Treat.

They enjoyed this Festival a lot, such as we did and can't wait for the next one already. It is important to us to give them some special Days to which they can look forward.



Outing



For our outing we usually take the Children to different places according the Seasons. We have four Outings each Year, each Term we go for one of them. By doing that, the Children can see and learn about different things we thought them and told them about. An Outing for example can be a day on Table Mountain,

visit the Boulders Beach (Penguins) in Simons town or drive up Silver mine which is a nature reserve area with a barrier lake. Our most recent Outing was the Silvermine one, the Pictures you can see are from our Time there together.

We took the Children for a walk around the nature Reserve, along the "River hike" path and around the damp of course. They loved



the nature, the blooming Flowers now in springtime and the very red looking water.

For our Lunch Time we found a beautiful spot to sit down and enjoy our Lunchboxes.

At our Outings the Children are allowed to bring the food which they are normally not allowed to bring like the cookies, juice or chips so that was very exciting too! They even shared their food and had a peaceful time.



WORK PARTY

We have work party twice a year, whereby parents teachers and children meet together and at school to clean the whole school, and fix the broken equipment. By doing this is to involve parents to school events and to build relationship between parent, child and teacher.

Good Bye Celebration (Graduation)



We do celebrate the Graduation with the children that are going to start grade one the following year. It is an interesting event, where by children dress with their beautiful garment, and beading crown in their head. And parents are the part of this celebration when we say our good bye to the children.

Staff

At Siyakhula we have 5 members that share our Team. One qualified Teacher, which works with our older Children (5-6 years old), one that finished her level 4 and now works with the younger ones (3-4 years old).

Also, there is our other member that is doing her first year of level 4 this time and joins us on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays with the little ones.

Also we have our Cooker. She prepares Breakfast and Lunch for the Children and makes sure our place is clean and a healthy environment for Children to be at.

Last but not least there is our new Volunteer, who just arrived in July 2016 from Germany and will join us for one year.

Building



The Siyakhula building has five rooms. We have one Classroom upstairs and a playing hall. In that Classroom you can find tables to sit at with nice chairs around, all made for Children. A sink for them to wash their hands and a small Toilet area. In this Classroom they also do their activities.

Downstairs we have two Classrooms. One, which is being used for the Morning Ring, inside play and Naptime, the other one is being used for them to do their activities and sit down for their meals.

Then there is our office left where all the paper work gets done and our Kitchen

Besides those Rooms there is another Toilet next to the downstairs activities Classroom and a small area for them to play outside which includes a Slide, a Sandbox and something similar to a partner swing.



