

Africa A+ field trip: 22 - 28 September 2024

Africa A+ has begun Year 5 of the Kouga Windfarm Trust ECD project. The first A+ field trip took place during the Term 3 school holidays (21st – 30th September) because Cohort 2 centres, such as Wielie Walie, Rainbow Learning Centre, Masikhule, and Grace Kids, are not available for whole day professional development events during the school term. The advantage is that all the staff could attend the one day Spring Conference as no one had to stay behind to look after the children. The disadvantage is that the ECD centres who were closed for the school holidays and Heritage Day (24th September) were not available for on-site support. The field trip activities included:

- <u>Site support visits</u> (23rd & 26th September)
 A+ visited seven ECD centres In Kouga to support them in implementing a quality early learning programme. A+ assisted each centre with their NCF planning and classroom set up, and demonstrated play-based teaching with a group of children.
- Spring Conference (25th September)

A+ facilitated a day of professional development for the 12 Cohort 2 ECD centres. The participants tracked their life events and noted how these have shaped their perceptions and responses in the classroom. This reflection was followed by a creative activity (if we want our teachers to nurture the children's creativity then we need to make sure they are in touch with and enjoying their own creativity). The afternoon was dedicated to planning play-based teaching activities in preparation for 2025.

Written comments from two participants:

- "Learned so much on how I [was] raised affected the way I react or who I am."
- o "Dit was 'n 'eye opening' gewees, Kyk nou anders na dinge". [It was eye opening. Looking at things differently now].
- Facilitators' Retreat (27th September)

A+ facilitated a day of professional development for the eight local ECD facilitators in training. When the project is over and A+ has gone, it will be this team of local Facilitators who will continue to support the 40 Kouga ECD centres in delivering a quality early learning programme.

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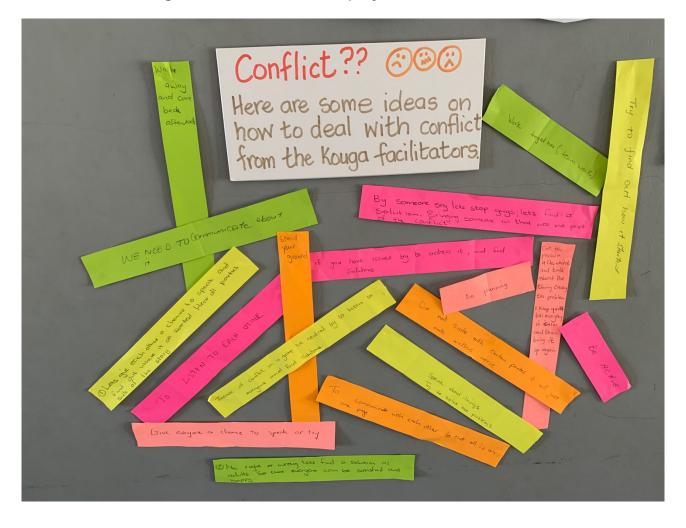
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