



Kouga Windfarm Trust ECD project

Africa A+ field trip: 30 September – 4 October 2024

Africa A+ completed their second Year 5 field trip for the Kouga Windfarm Trust ECD project. It was an enjoyable, productive and satisfying five days that included:

- **Grade R workshop** (30th September)

Sixteen Grade R teachers participants attended the three hour A+ workshop. This is the final Grade R workshop for the Kouga ECD project as the number of Grade R children in ECD centres has dropped as Grade R classrooms are being added to the local primary schools. The workshop included feedback from Ellistene Leander (who had attended an Eastern Cape Education Department Grade R workshop), reiteration of the CAPS approach (begin with the end in mind) and practical play-based teaching aligned to the Grade R CAPS outcomes. Two participants wrote:

 - *"I'll start using the 5 steps to do my planning. As planning was always a challenge for me. Think I'll start enjoying now."*
 - *"Showing us how simple it is to follow the CAPS curriculum. Reminding us too, to keep challenging our learners to think by asking open ended questions."*
- **Cohort 3 Spring Conference** (2nd & 3rd October)

Principals and teachers from fourteen ECD centres attended the two days of A+ professional development. The first day included personal development (in the belief that who you are informs and shapes your teaching) and a creative experience provided by two guest artists. The second day focused on the planning of teaching and learning in preparation for 2025. Affirmations and reflections drew the two days to a close.

When asked to reflect in response to 'How will today affect the children you teach?', four participants wrote .” (my comments in brackets):

 - *"They [the children] will get to learn more because now i know more".*
 - *"Help me to impliment [implement] what I learnt today from a different angle. Ask questions in different ways to make/allow them [the children] to think and do*
 - *"To make sure I do the planning so that I know and prepared for the children. When the teacher is prepared the children enjoy the lessons because it's prepared".*
 - *"Learning through play has become a part of our daily routine".*
- **Leadership workshop** (4th October)

Sixteen principals attended the three hour staff development workshop. The high turnover of staff and the hiring of young unqualified teachers means that principals need to take on the role of facilitating staff development. The workshop helped the principals to identify their leadership strengths, to find ways of motivating their staff, and to use the weekly staff meeting for staff development. One principal noted *"Die feit dat ek moes dieper in gegaan het met die 'finding solutions.' Dit was moelik, maar dit het gewerk."* (the fact that I had to go deeper into 'finding solutions.' It was difficult but it worked).
- **Site support visits** (30th September, 1st & 4th October 2024)

A+ visited five ECD centres. A+ completed two annual surveys, provided practical support to ECD centres, demonstrated play-based teaching, and observed a demonstration lesson by Natasha Visagie as part of her Kouga facilitator training.

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