



14 May 2026

Our Slogan: “Engaging curious minds”.

Our Motivation: Early Childhood Education (ECE, years 1 to 9) lays a foundation for all education, and for future success in life.

Our Vision: Empowered schools and teachers who offer *quality* ECE and act as agents of change, preparing children to be confident, skilled, and able to deal with the challenges of their future.

Our Mission: To transform whole schools and education communities to deliver quality ECE and child-centred development, especially among the rural poor.

Our Status and Scope: We are a registered non-profit organization (NPO Registration: 220-868; Section 18A number: 9423926188) working in ECE for more than 11 years, and currently in Western, Eastern and Northern Cape provinces of South Africa.

Our current projects: We are working on 3-year projects in Malungeni, former Transkei, and in Kathu, Northern Cape. We have a learning-materials centre, **A+ iZinto**, in Cape Town.

WHY we do it:

- Quality ECE offers the **best return on investment**¹.
- Through the teachers that we train, we **prepare children for the future**. According to the World Economic Forum’s *Future of Jobs* report, ‘An estimated 65% of children entering primary school today are likely to end up working in jobs that do not yet exist.’
- Research confirms that schools using an approach infused with **creative arts**² achieve:
 - excellent academic results,
 - happier and more motivated teachers,
 - better attendance (because children enjoy arts in their learning), and
 - fewer discipline problems.
- **“Creativity** is now as important in education as literacy.”³



¹ http://www.highscope.org/file/Research/PerryProject/specialsummary_rev2011_02_2.pdf

² <http://www.okaplus.org/okaresearch>

³ Quote by Sir Ken Robinson https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity?language=en

WHAT we do:

A+ works primarily with principals and teachers, but the ultimate impact is directed at the children in their care.

A+ builds capacity on four primary levels:

1. **Development of educators' pedagogic capacity** to deliver quality ECE.
2. **Providing practical solutions** to the problem of resources for teaching and learning through training in the use of no-cost materials.
3. **Training of Community Facilitators** who continue to provide mentoring support in their communities once initial training is complete.
4. **Training of parents** in the principles of play-based learning.



HOW we do it (our methods):

A+ is **NOT** an alternative curriculum, a quick fix, a short-term solution, or a convenient, cost-cutting, one-size-fits-all programme.

A+ IS:

- **An approach** to teaching and learning. We employ methods of joyful learning which include an emphasis on the arts and the use of “loose parts”. (Loose parts are no-cost materials that are curated and used in creative activities.) We promote problem-solving, innovation, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity.
- **Training** that provides a **practical link** between curriculum and theoretical training on the one hand, and practice in the classroom on the other.
- **Adaptable** to the contexts of all schools, including all socio-economic strata, age groups and grades.
- **Comprehensive:** Wherever possible, **A+** involves all stakeholders: principals, teachers, classroom assistants, administrators, parents, carers and community representatives, and seeks to establish communities of practice.
- **Supportive** of the national curricula objectives, namely the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) and the 0-4 years National Curriculum Framework (NCF).
- **Sustainable**, because:
 - We provide teachers with intensive, hands-on workshops as well as sustained mentoring and support.
 - We empower teachers to source and utilize no-cost materials as resources for teaching and learning.
 - We develop teams of Community Facilitators who continue to support local schools beyond the initial training period.
 - Whenever possible, we work with schools in their local contexts because, when we are gone, the context remains.
 - We enable schools to identify their specific needs and find ways to thrive, despite their challenges.



The A+ Value Proposition:

1. Our training is highly practical and addresses theory-to-practice gaps. We provide “**The Missing Link**” to *quality* ECE!
2. Our training uses the existing curricula and is complementary to NQF Level 4, not competing.
3. We tailor our training to rural and under-resourced contexts and the needs of individual schools/ECD centres.
4. We not only train, but also mentor individual teachers and principals.
5. Our training is evidence-based and aligned with research findings.
6. We provide solutions to the problem of resources for teaching and learning.
7. We emphasize sustainability by establishing communities of ECE practice.
8. We monitor and evaluate our impacts and constantly strive to improve our services.
9. We communicate our experiences both in online media and in the academic literature.
10. We believe in collaboration with other NPOs who offer services complementary to ours.

The Services Offered by A+:

A comprehensive list of what we currently offer:

- **Baseline Studies** of ECE communities to assess conditions and needs, and produce an assessment report with recommendations.
- **Comprehensive A+ training courses:** at least three years of intermittent (quarterly) workshop training and mentoring for teachers, principals, parents and Community Facilitators.
- **Training of Community Facilitators:** on-the-job training for selected local educators who then sustain A+ training and mentoring in their communities, in the long term.
- **Mentoring Services:** on-site and/or remote mentoring of teachers and principals according to a flexible schedule. Intended primarily for course participants.
- **Training of Trainers (ToT):** short courses for trainers of ECE teachers. A variety of topics are covered in a series of short courses which can be selected to suit a client’s needs. Some of the topics included are: reimagining ECE curricula and classrooms using the A+ approach; using “loose parts” as no-cost teaching resources; teaching emergent literacy and numeracy; leadership in ECE contexts; creating sustainable communities of practice.
- **Training of Teachers (ToT):** short courses, similar to the previous ToT, but adapted for teachers and principals.
- **Training of Parents (ToP):** short courses for parents, guardians and caregivers focussed primarily on play-based learning and the use of “loose parts”.
- **Consultation and Research Services:** Based on our extensive practical and academic experience, we can assist organizations working in ECE in their design of training and research programmes. We can also carry out data collection in the field, as well as analyse and write up results.

All of the above can be delivered on site in communities; however, some, such as the ToT courses, can be delivered at a central venue, if preferred. In general, we believe that on-site training is better. We encourage potential clients and funders to consider all available options and assist A+ in designing a programme of training that meets the specific needs of a given community and its educators.

Contacts and media:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Dr Giulietta Harrison Executive Director | 072 959 8895 harrisongiulietta@gmail.com | A+ website: http://africaaplus.org.za/ |
| Yolande Delpont Programme Leader | 074 613 1054 yolande.delpont@gmail.com | A+ Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/AfricaAplus/ |

Banking details: First National Bank;
Account number: 62901347816;
Account name: AFRICA APLUS SCHOOLS NPC

