




**ICDP TRUST**  
"BECAUSE CHILDREN MATTER"

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**LEBONE  
CENTRE**

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### ***BECAUSE CHILDREN MATTER***

#### **LEBONE CENTRE STAFF**

Centre Manager: Anneliese Maritz

Programme Staff:

Literacy Co-ordinator - Cathy Gush

Early Childhood Development Co-ordinator - Dee Koopman

Little Red Dragon ECD Practitioners - Ziyanda Mkalipi and Anneline Saults

Project Read Site Co-ordinator - Adre de Jongh

Home visitors : Kaylyne Rushin, Anthea Davies

Office Manager - Natalie Cannon

Receptionist/Office Administrator - Bronwyn Oerson

Cleaner/ General Assistant - Lucretia Wessels

#### **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Brandt Stoltz and Co Grahamstown are our appointed auditors.

Audited Financial Statements for 2021 are available on request.

The Trust can issue Tax Exemption Certificates (18A) to donors.



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



### **DR BARBARA MATTHEWS** **Chairperson : ICDP Trust**

For the third year in a row, I write this report with the world around us in crisis. The pandemic continues to rage, its roar somewhat reduced and diminished, but with us and disrupting still. KwaZulu Natal is waterlogged and washing away, while Grahamstown's dams remain at critically low levels. The thing we could not have imagined, a war in Europe in our lifetime, plays out in the streets of Ukrainian towns and cities, with human catastrophe on constant loop in newsfeeds and social media. It can feel overwhelming. I recall the simple wisdom of the starfish story – a boy tossing one starfish after another back into the ocean after a storm, and a man saying, "What

use is that? There are hundreds of them, the problem is too big." The boy replies, "For the starfish I have thrown back my small efforts matter a great deal."

The Lebone Centre ended 2021 bidding farewell to our director, Ms Anneliese Maritz, as she retired after 12 years of generous and committed service to the Centre and the ideals of community building. She has been replaced by Ms Jolene Tarr, an Occupational Therapist with a Master's degree in Early Childhood Intervention, who brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience, having worked in both the Departments of Health and Education.



With all the struggles and changes of the past few years, a recent visit to the Lebone Centre during the morning playground time refocused my attention. It is inspiring how children retain a capacity for play and joy, even in the most difficult circumstances. The actor Philip Seymour Hoffman noted how, "All over the world, young men and young women will always dream dreams." I hope this energy remains a driving force for everything we stand for and strive for, no matter how tumultuous the world around us becomes. Local, national and international disruptions and crises, while difficult, are also an opportunity for us to think about what we do, the impact of our interventions, what we can do better, and to consider areas where the Lebone Centre can expand the reach of its programmes. One starfish at a time.

In closing, I offer my thanks to all the members of the Lebone Centre staff, the Kingswood College Community, our neighbours in Currie Street, and the community we are part of, for their continued and unwavering support. My gratitude as always to the ICDP Trustees, particularly Mr Mike Bandey, Judge Clive Plasket and Dr Colleen Vassiliou, as we say thank you to them for their years of service, while welcoming Mr Richard Brotherton and Mr Leon Grové to our ranks.

## **DR BARBARA MATTHEWS**



### The Trustees in 2021 were:

Dr Barbara Matthews - Chairperson

Mr Mike Bandey - Treasurer

Ms San Knoetze - Vice-Chair

Ms Diana Hornby

Dr Colleen Vassiliou

Ms Rosaline Spanneberg

Judge Clive Plasket

Rev Tim Marshall

Ms Nomangwane Mrwetyana

Adv Nicola Maloney



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



**ANNELIESE MARITZ**  
Lebone Centre Director

It is for many reasons that I write my last AGM report with a heavy heart, but most importantly because of the untimely passing (27 December 2021) of our beloved Ziyanda Mkalipi, ECD Practitioner at our Little Red Dragon Preschool since 1 October 2012. While the messages from current and previous children and parents flowed in, it felt and still feels totally unreal. Ziyanda's eulogy was true to the person she was - she loved the Lord; her

biological and Centre family; and especially the children who came through the Little Red Dragon's door every year. She wrote her benchmark exams for the B.Ed degree at Rhodes University just days before the Centre closed for the December holiday, and her daughter Sihle shared with us the news that she had been accepted onto the course in 2022. While we continue to mourn the loss of our beloved Zee, she continues to inspire us to live and learn every day.

**Ziyanda Mkalipi**



**Dee Koopman**

**The Centre impacted just over 1 500 children and 750 parents, partnered with five schools, and provided over 2 000 books directly to families.**

**Anneliese Maritz**

We started 2021 better prepared to deal with the pandemic. But the mental stress of adjustment can never be ignored, especially within the NGO sector and an organisation such as the Centre, that took on additional roles in an attempt to minimize the risks and costs associated with the loss of school time during Covid-19.

We were able to welcome and offer Dee Koopman a one-year contract as the ECD Co-ordinator and we thank her for sharing her passion with regard to child-directed and play-based learning during her time at the Centre. We were also very pleased to become part of the Vice-Chancellor's Education Initiative as a Centre of Early Childhood Excellence.

In total, the Centre impacted just over 1 500 children and 750 parents, partnered with five schools, and provided over

2 000 books directly through our programmes, with many more indirect beneficiaries. Strategic planning, partnerships, and a team of dedicated, determined and committed staff and trustees enabled us to provide the Pipeline Programme of educational support for children 0 – 9 years with a budget of just under R2 million.

I was privileged to be part of this amazing team of staff and trustees for the past twelve years. It has been an incredible journey of self-discovery, continuous learning, loads of laughter, celebrations and even, at times, tears. This remarkable journey would not have been possible without God paving the way and His continuous love and provision over the years. The leadership and governance provided by the Chairmanship of first Rev Tim Rist, and then Dr Barbara Matthews, has contributed to the organisation going from





strength to strength, and I trust with the appointment of Jolene Tarr as the new Director, that the organisation will continue to develop and partner with our beneficiaries to bring about change.

To each and every person who crossed my path over the past 12 years at the Centre, thank you for enriching my life and allowing me to weave a beautiful and unique tapestry of extraordinary memories. And thank you to my husband Mark and my son Joshua for their unfailing support.

My prayer: Proverbs 3: 5-6  
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

## **Anneliese Maritz**



## **New Director - Jolene Tarr**



## **Heritage Day**



## **Saying farewell to Auntie Jen Botha**





## OVERVIEW OF LEBONE CENTRE ACTIVITIES: 2021



### Pipeline of Support

We continued to implement our Pipeline of Support for children 0 – 9 years in our surrounding community, through the following programmes:

#### #Every Baby Matters

This programme focused on mothers and babies in the important First 1000 Days period. It consisted of bi-monthly group information sessions at the local health clinic, followed by a series of Home Visits to 22 mothers who signed up for further interaction. Mothers received an innovative “Baby Treasure Box” which served as storage for the resources given (blanket, rattle, mirror, books, etc) as well as folding out into a play mat with stimulatory pictures.

Information shared during the home visits revolved around the importance of early stimulation:

talking, reading and playing, as well as making home-made toys. The results and feedback from this initiative were very positive, and the HCI Foundation agreed to fund it for a further year, with expansion to an additional clinic.

#### Mikhulu Book-Sharing

The Lebone Centre was invited to partner with the Mikhulu Trust from Cape Town to deliver their innovative and well-researched Book-Sharing workshops to 160 parents in Makhanda. The series of four workshops were done with either parents of 0-2 year olds or 3-5 year olds. A number of our mothers from the #EBM programme (above) also attended the Book-Sharing workshops, as well as parents from our “20 books in 200 homes in 2020” campaign. This speaks to an ecosystem of literacy support







in our target community, which works towards children reading for meaning by the end of Grade 3. Parents received a package of books and toys upon completion of the four workshops.

👏 Selected to be a Centre of ECD Excellence as part of the Vice-Chancellor's Education Initiative

👏 We returned to having school every day for most of the year.

👏 Mikhulu Book-Sharing Workshops were done with parents, and children were given a new book on three occasions during the year.

👏 Learning through play was an important focus, along with child-directed learning. The two practitioners joined in with

## Little Red Dragon Preschool

👏 Multi-lingual pre-Grade R classroom on-site at the Lebone Centre, with 26 children: 8 isiXhosa, 14 Afrikaans and 4 English-speaking

👏 5 children on bursary support

Supporting  
the  
First 1 000  
days



# THE LEBONE CENTRE PIPELINE PROGRAMME



# Every Baby Matters  
(0-2 years)

Multilingual Storytellers  
(2 - 5 years)

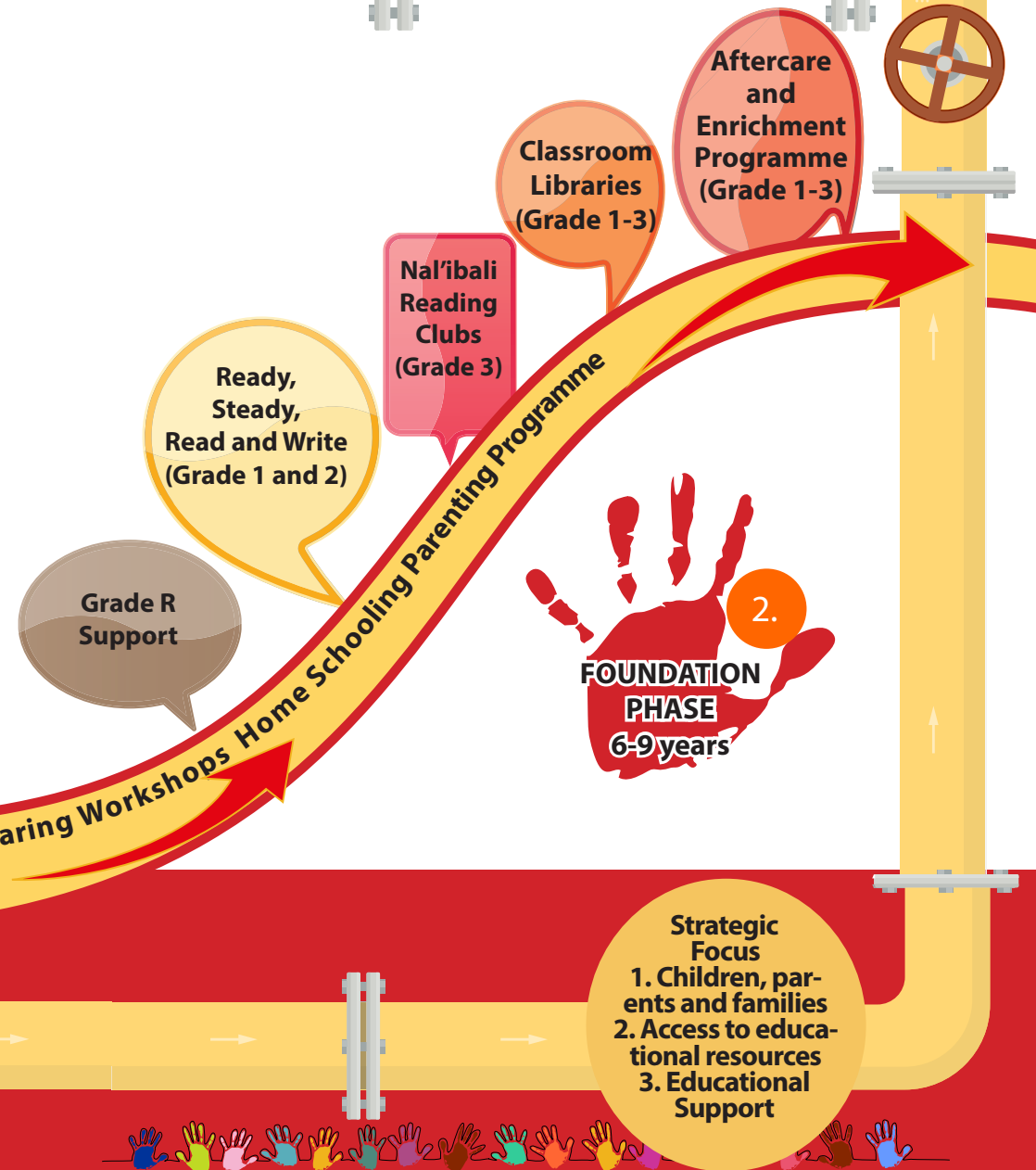
Little Red Dragon Multilingual Preschool  
(3-5 years)

PARENT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES : Mikhulu Book-sh






## A pathway of projects that parents and children can access





## Creating a vibrant classroom




Reggio Emilia online training from Italy, under the guidance of the ECD Co-ordinator

 5 children staying on for a second year at LRD because of their age

 Upgrades were done to the outdoor play area, with the addition of a mud kitchen and a pretend-play Wendy House


 All learners were placed in Grade R classes of their choice for 2022, and all issued with Back-to-School packs to start their Grade R year


## Foundation Phase Literacy Support

 Three sets of TIME (Together in My Education) materials, developed by Wordworks specifically for use by parents at home to support their children's learning during the time of COVID and erratic



school attendance, were delivered to all the Grade R and Grade 1 pupils at four partner schools, reaching approximately 350 learners. These were packs of resources that provided activities for every weekday for a 6-week period.

 Book-sharing workshops were done for Grade R parents at five schools (part of the cohort of 160 parents mentioned above)


 The ***Ready, Steady, Read and Write*** (Wordworks) programme was implemented with close on


100 Grade 1 and 2 learners at two partners schools (George Dickerson Primary and Good Shepherd Primary), and year-end assessment results showed pleasing progress. Participating learners also received an end-of-year pack with stationery, books, a diary and some sweet treats. Kudos must go to our site co-ordinator Adre de Jongh, the three Interns from GADRA Education and three loyal volunteers who managed all the children in the absence of our usual corps of volunteers and B.Ed students.

## Getting books into the hands of children






 Two Nal'ibali Reading Clubs were run with Grade 3 learners at the same two partner schools as above, in order to consolidate the RSRW input from Grade 1 and 2, as well as to promote reading for enjoyment.

 The Home-School Partnership Programme was run with a small number of Foundation Phase parents at three partner schools. Although this is a very solid programme and those who attend find it very worthwhile, we struggle to retain parents for the duration of the course (which is meant to run over six

or seven workshops). In 2022 we will look to either shortening the programme, or expanding the Book-Sharing workshops for parents.

 Classroom Libraries: The book stock in 11 Foundation Phase classrooms was updated at four partner schools, reaching approximately 380 children, and we embarked on writing a Paper about the impact of the classroom libraries on reading practices in classrooms.

## Aftercare and Enrichment (ACE)



## Learning Through Play






### Aftercare and Enrichment (ACE) Programme

- 👉 20 vulnerable children were on-site every afternoon from Monday – Thursday
- 👉 Grade 1 – 3
- 👉 Numeracy support, with training and materials provided by the South African Numeracy Chair from Rhodes University
- 👉 Literacy support, utilising the

Wordworks *Ready, Steady, Read and Write* programme, as well as Nal'ibali supplements

- 👉 Life Skills support through a variety of initiatives such as the Protective Behaviours course, dancing/movement classes, arts and crafts activities, constructive play, etc.
- 👉 All but one of the children progressed to the next grade at school.



-  All children received a daily meal, back-to-school stationery, a birthday gift of their choice, and a new set of clothes for the December holidays. Their special end-of-year treat was a visit to the local Spur restaurant.
-  A Family Literacy and Numeracy Day was held to enable parents, siblings and other family members to join in with a day of fun.
-  The Lebone Centre acted as the lead agent for four other after-care centres under the Vestas-funded project, being responsible for training, resource distribution, etc.

## Multilingual Storytellers

The pilot project of this initiative started in 2018 as non-centre based multilingual and interactive stories for young children who were not attending formal preschool. The pilot exceeded expectations, and an unexpected outcome was the personal growth and development of the storytellers who were unemployed youths. The whole 'fanfare' of practising stories, deciding on character costumes and roles, make up, colourful wigs and going out into the community with musical instruments contributed to an aura

of excitement and the expectation that learning can be fun.

During the past two years of Covid-19, the storytellers fulfilled many additional roles, as highlighted in our 2020 AGM report, but they missed the excitement of the group activity. Highlights of 2021 included "My first book" which involved helping children to create drawings and stories that were recorded as a book with their name on it. Stories were told to children and adults standing in queues at one of the soup kitchens in the community, and storytellers became "stand-in teachers" in communities assisting with homework, practising writing skills and helping with school projects.

Our thanks go to the Solon Foundation for the funding which made this project possible, and to Cecily Salmon for her enthusiasm and guidance around challenges faced, especially during COVID times.

In total we impacted just over 1 500 children and 750 parents directly with our programmes, with many more possible indirect beneficiaries. We are proud of the fact that we managed to achieve this with a team of dedicated and committed staff and a budget of under R2 million.



## Children, Parents and Families

In total we impacted just over 1 500 children and 750 parents directly with our programmes















## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS IN 2021

<p><b>Vestas Empowerment Trust</b></p> 	<p><b>The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust</b></p> 	<p><b>Solon Foundation</b></p> 
<p><b>Nal'ithuba Trust</b></p> 	<p><b>Tutuwa Community Foundation</b></p> 	<p><b>HCI Foundation</b></p> 
<p><b>Old Kingswoodian Club</b></p>  <p><b>Kingswood College Chapel Fund</b></p>	<p><b>Department of Social Development</b></p> 	<p><b>Mikhulu Trust</b></p> 
<p><b>Van Der Meer Family</b></p>	<p><b>Østergaard Koch Family</b></p>	<p><b>Amit Galal</b></p>

**A sincere thanks and appreciation to all our local, national and international friends for your continued support.**

**In partnership with Kingswood College since 2005**





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