



NEWSLETTER

You're receiving this newsletter because we regard you as a FRIEND of **Lesedi Day Care**. Thank you for the interest you have shown in our farm crèche. With this publication, we hope to add value to your life by keeping you updated on LDC's current events and how we equip the children of farmworkers for their formal schooling years.



Beeld-Kinderfonds sponsored R30 000 towards our 2024 Monkeynastix program.

Thank you Beeld-Kinderfonds, your long-standing support means that our children of farmworkers can continue with their weekly Monkeynastix lessons, the absolute highlight of their week!





LESEDI DAY CARE

We are a farm school for children of
farmworkers in Toitskraal.



LESEDI DAY CARE

Our 2024 Wishlist
Paving - R50 000
Slides - R25 000
Heating - R12 000

Contact us to help fund our
children's dreams
care@lesedidaycare.co.za

NPO 132-707 |
www.lesedidaycare.co.za



Photo (above): Khomotso (5).

Lifting Our Spirits — Have you HEARD about *Helplift*?

Hearing Problem Identified

Meet little 5-year-old Khomotso, an eager learner at *Lesedi Day Care* (LDC) with a free spirit. She's a beautiful girl from our farm creche who loves to dance and play with her friends. When you're around her, you notice her speech sounds a bit unusual, and she tends to focus on my mouth when I speak to her.

Helplift

We've been worried about her development and approached *Helplift*, an organisation that links (struggling, but deserving) beneficiaries in need with sponsors who donate their expertise on a pro-bono basis.

Diagnostic Hearing Evaluation

In February, Khomotso and her mom travelled to Pretoria where an audiologist (free of charge) evaluated Khomotso's hearing through a diagnostic evaluation. The audiologist confirmed Khomotso has profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears. She recommended a *cochlear implant* as it will drastically change her life for the better.

Expensive Procedure

Poor little Khomotso! Even though the recommended procedure is crucial for her development, it is incredibly expensive. The wonderful team at *Helplift* has secured the services of the specialists on a Pro-Deo basis. R300 000 is still needed for her to have the procedure done.

Help Khomotso Hear

Please contact us if you or your business want to help with financial support towards this worthy cause. And help Khomotso hear her mother's sweet voice again.

- Send an email to care@lesedidaycare.co.za
- **Visit us** at Farm J92, Toitskraal, Limpopo.
- **Make a donation** to Investec 10012848268
- Make a payment to *Payfast*.

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Photo above (from left to right): in front, Valencia, Lettie, at the back, Dolly, Tammy and Itumeleng.

Improving Ourselves, for Our Children

On 15 January 2024, the ***Clothes to Good OnRoute*** team visited ***Lesedi Day Care*** (LDC) and conducted much needed training with 4 of our ECD practitioners. The comprehensive training covered the following concepts:

- Basic concepts in child development including fine-motor skills, gross motor skills, literacy skills, numeracy skills and perceptual skills.
- ***123ECD*** toolkit with 50 educational activities.
- The ***123ECD*** manual helped participants grasp how to use each activity for child development and how to replicate them using mostly “waste” resources.
- A toy making workshop where practitioners made 4 different toys from “waste”.
- Unpacking the current daily programme and how to incorporate educational resources from the ***123 ECD*** kit.

Tammy Greyling, Occupational Therapist at OnRoute @ Clothes to Good: “The ***Lesedi Day Care*** ECD practitioners are passionate about early childhood development and showed an eagerness to learn. ***Lesedi Day Care*** is a well-maintained centre with ample space to facilitate learning.”

Tammy and her team identified areas that need improvement. A follow-up two-day training session has been booked for early April 2024. Valencia and her team at ***LDC*** are eagerly looking forward to their return, “We had so much fun and really did think out of the box”.

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Photo above: Itumeleng busy making toys for our children.



Photo above: Our team, busy making toys.

How Can I Help a Child?

Our experience shows that farmworkers are often reluctant to send their children to school due to various factors, such as:

- A lack of education
- Fear for the unknown
- Misinformation about the benefits of school education
- Lack of funding

LDC charges R200 per child per month – you can sponsor a child's full yearly fee at R2 400.

Send an email to Anné Pretorius at care@lesedidaycare.co.za to sign up.

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Photo (above): Our **LDC** children showing off their performance skills.

Year-End Function – Flying High

On Saturday, 2 December, we celebrated yet another successful year of learning at **Lesedi Day Care** (LDC). LDC is a registered non-profit organization. We operate as a community crèche for children of farmworkers in the **Sekhukune, Toitskraal** area.

Off to the Big School

23 Of our farmworker children graduated in 2023 and began their formal education in January 2024. We wish them well on their journey and will keep ourselves (and our supportive readers) updated on their progress.

Daunting Statistics

The difficult economic climate has hit hard, even more so for people without schooling. According to the **2023 Q3 statistics**, the unemployed with no schooling have seen an increase of 27.5%, while the unemployed with a secondary school completion certificate have seen a smaller increase of 2%. With this in mind, it remains heart breaking that 4.3% of children of farmworkers still do not attend school.

Importance of ECD

In **March 2023 the World Bank** stated that investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD) is one of the most important tools available to make sure children benefit from formal schooling, and later in life, from improved health, social, and economic outcomes, to reduce the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

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Photo (above): Our **LDC** children enjoying the parachute event that **Monkeynastix** organised for the day.

United to Help

Together we are helping our farm children grow up and become healthy, educated adults – able to contribute towards our community and our country. In 2012, when **LDC** initially opened its doors with just 10 children from farm-working families, the prospect of making a meaningful impact on the lives of these young ones seemed like a distant dream. Fast forward 11 years, and it is with great pride that we reflect on the fact that we have positively influenced the lives of 391 children.

Our Team

Our forerunners at LDC, the people we entrust with the daily care of our children, also need a special thank you from us. They love our children and care for them as for their own.

Valencia has dedicated the past 9 years to teaching our farm children, demonstrating unwavering commitment to our school. We appreciate her heart – her dedication to our farmworker children. In the world of citrus, the two main varieties of oranges are navels and valencias. Navels are sweet, but have a short shelf life. Valencias, on the other hand, are very special, they far outlast navels. The Valencia is a much stronger fruit and customers, who know their citrus, prefer valencias. This is our Valencia, strong and tenacious!

Lettie is our cook. Children cannot learn on empty tummies, so Lettie performs a vital part of the LDC winning team. She has been part of our team for the past 7 years.

Itumeleng has volunteered her services as a top-class cleaner for the past 2 years. We demonstrate self-respect to our children by maintaining cleanliness and tidiness in our home and surroundings. **Dolly** has long been an integral part of our LDC family, and this year, she has transitioned to a full-time role, providing invaluable assistance.

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Photo (above): Valencia and our clever **LDC** children showing parents what they've learnt in 2023.

Thato and Sharon have taken the responsibility of bringing our children to school. Although we care for children of farmworkers, most farmworkers no longer reside on the farms where they work. This has posed a logistical challenge, but fortunately, Thato and Sharon assist us with this issue. Thank you for your help and please continue to ensure the safety of our children.

Hannelie owns the **Monkeynastix** agency in town and supports us with weekly classes. You'll notice that the lessons not only bring joy to the children but also contribute significantly to their overall development. **Melissa and Chalene** are the beautiful ladies who work with our children every week.

Toitskraal Primary – Elke and her team have been supporting us from the very start. We are so privileged to have such a good school close by. **Wilma** has been a huge support for us and our children transitioning to primary school. Thank you for the attention you give our children.

We are saddened at the untimely news of the passing of our dear **Marie Niewoudt**. Marie always made time for us and offered frequent guidance to Valencia. Her absence is deeply felt, and we miss her dearly.

The Katlego Citrus Team, with their monthly contributions, plays a crucial role in keeping our doors open. We extend our gratitude to the owners in Dubai, Hadi Abuseedo and his family, as well as the directors in South Africa, Dave and Sean. We also appreciate the team here with us; Martin, Rean, Jaco, Johannes, and Maryna. Their kindness and loyalty to our project allow us to continue year in and year out.

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Our Parents are incredibly important pillars in the lives of our children. The saying 'Fatherless – futureless' rings very true. Without the love and support of parents, children struggle to overcome life's challenges.

Die Beeld-Kinderfonds, who co-funded our Monkeynastix classes, deserves acknowledgement. Their much-needed aid has made a significant difference to the lives of our children.

We receive help in big and small ways from our community. People like **Mr. Madiseng** and organisations, such as **Wozabona** and **Helplift**, have been our shining stars.

Our 2024 Plans

We've already started to implement phase one of our **ECD program** at LDC. This includes the upcycling of waste material to make usable educational toys.



Photo (above): Parents, teachers, supporters, and children; all fully engaged with our year-end function.

How Can I Help a Child?

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Together we are helping our farm children grow up and become healthy adults – able to contribute towards our community and our country.

Our experience shows that farmworkers are often reluctant to send their children to school due to numerous factors, such as:

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