

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Let's Play. Let's Grow. Let's Thrive Together.

Dear aRe Bapaleng Member,

As we enter June, we would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the 27 new Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres that have joined the aRe Bapaleng Membership Network.

We are excited to have you become part of this growing network dedicated to improving the quality of care, learning and support for young children!



World Bee Day was celebrated across the country by ECDs. Members shared their beautiful pictures with us, like 24 Little Treasures in Gauteng and Rainbow Kiddies Daycare in Standerton, Mpumalanga.

May was a busy month with many activities. The Seriti aRe Bapaleng team and its network of ECD members celebrated World Bee Day with lots of fun activities. Thank you members for sharing your beautiful pictures with us! They sparked joy!

In May our first group of aRe Bapaleng ECD members completed their training and are now busy moving forward to start their own Parent Clubs.

We look forward to sharing this journey with our members. Parent Clubs are an important way to strengthen the Home-ECD relationship, as well as ensure parents and caregivers play a more active role in supporting the early learning and development of their children.

At Parent Clubs and ECDs in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Standerton and North West we celebrated International Family Day with fun activities and soulful conversations about the meaning of family and the importance of strong support systems.



During the month we celebrated International Family Day where we spoke with parents and caregivers about the importance of family and building strong, healthy bonds with our children. We also used practical tools, such as book-sharing, to show that there are simple, but powerful ways to spend quality time together, while supporting learning and strengthening the connection at home. A great reminder that small moments with our children can make a big difference.

Your active participation is making a real difference in closing the early learning gap!



In celebration of Disability Week, in Limpopo we visited the Zedibeng Happy Angels Disability Centre. We donated sensory boards and lego sets, demonstrating how to use these to support children's communication and emotional development, as well as fine motor skills and others. Many children at the centre have autism and were excited to participate.



Member Spotlight

Amelia's Day Care, Gauteng

This month, we celebrate the principal of Amelia's Daycare for her attentiveness, compassion, and commitment to children's well-being.

The principal shared a touching experience of noticing signs of stress and emotional distress in one of the preschool children at the centre. Through gentle observation and communication with the family, she was able to better understand the challenges affecting the child's emotional well-being.

What stood out most was her willingness to act and seek support for the child. She collaborated with local social workers, Childline, and the police station to ensure the child and family could access the necessary support and protection.

She also emphasized the importance of ECD centres building strong relationships with community stakeholders and support services. These collaborations make it easier for centres to respond quickly and effectively when children and families are facing difficult situations at home. Her story reminded us that ECD principals and teachers do far more than educate; they create safe spaces, protect children, and support families with care and compassion

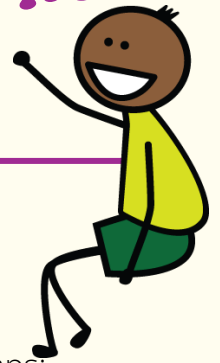


What Members Are Saying

Our first group of ECD members to complete the training described their experience as *“fun, enlightening, fantastic and helpful in ways I never imagined”*. They told us how they had enjoyed the content and practical tips they had received. ECD members said they would recommend the training to others.



Resources You Can Use This Month



❄️ "Winter Warm-Up Adventure"

Tell the children they're going on a Winter Adventure. Call out different winter-themed actions and they copy you:

"Warm your hands!" — rub hands fast; "Jump over the puddle!" — big jumps; "Hide from the cold wind!" — crouch and cover; "Walk like a penguin!" — waddle slowly; "Shake off the cold!" — full-body wiggle; "Find the winter sun!" — stretch arms up high. End with a "warm circle" where everyone sits together, takes a deep breath, and says one thing that makes them feel cozy in winter.

☀️ Maintaining Winter Wellness - Tip:

Take a "sunshine break" each day — even 5 minutes outside in the winter sun can boost your mood, warm your body, and give you a natural energy lift.

🍲 Nutrition for Colder Months:

Keep little tummies warm this winter with simple, hearty foods like oats, soups, and warm drinks.



Celebrating International Day of Play

Create "Play Stations" for 10 Minutes

- Set up 3 quick stations:
- Blocks or recycled boxes
- Drawing/colouring
- Pretend play (kitchen, dolls, cars)

Children rotate freely — pure choice, pure joy.

Try These!

Fun Treasure Sorting Table

Put out safe, everyday items: bottle tops, fabric scraps, sticks, stones, lids, cardboard tubes.

Let children build, sort, imagine, and create.

Nature Play Walk

Collect leaves, stones, sticks, or flowers and use them to make patterns, faces, or shapes back in the classroom.

Also check out the aRe Bapaleng interactive portal for more fun ideas!



Member Tips

Boosting early literacy:



Michelle, a practitioner from 24 Little Treasures Early Childhood Development Centre in Gauteng, shared that during book sharing sessions, teachers should actively involve children to keep them engaged and interested in the story.

She suggested using the children's names as the characters in the story and encouraging them to act out what the characters are doing.

Michelle also shared that teachers should ask open-ended questions throughout the story to encourage participation and check children's understanding. After the story reading, children can be given an activity where they draw about what happened in the story. This helps to make book sharing more interactive, enjoyable, and meaningful for children.

Every child has the right to feel safe, protected, loved, and respected.

Disability Inclusion Tips.



- ❖ Be kind and respectful to every child.
- ❖ Make your space welcoming for all children.
- ❖ Help children play and support each other.
- ❖ Focus on what each child can do.
- ❖ Adapt activities so everyone can join in.

Child Protection Tips



- ❖ Always keep children safe and supervised.
- ❖ Use calm, gentle behaviour at all times.
- ❖ Listen to children and take their worries seriously.
- ❖ Report any concerns to the right person immediately.

Share your ideas with us – we love featuring member tips in the next newsletter!

Events & What's Coming Next Month



Upcoming in June:

- ❖ This month starts with **International Children's Day**.
- ❖ **Child Protection Week** ensures we keep an eye on this important topic.
- ❖ June is also a chance to have fun and spotlight learning through play on the **International Day of Play**.

Looking ahead to July:

- ❖ We will be preparing for **Mandela Day celebrations** and look forward to sharing ideas within the ECD member network.
- ❖ Watch out for more **Winter Wellness** ideas, including how to keep up your mental well-being through these tough months.

June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 International Children's Day	2 Child Protection Week	3 Child Protection Week	4 Child Protection Week	5 World Environment Day	6
7	8	9	10	11 International Day of Play	12	13
14	15	16 Youth Day	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Keep playing, Keep growing!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. **Together, as South Africa's ECD network, we can create a safe and supportive environment for our children to thrive.** If you have stories, photos, or questions, reply to this email or WhatsApp us on 060 939 2904.

Warm regards,

The aRe Bapaleng Team

