

Butterfly House Special Early Childhood Development Programme

Providing support to our most vulnerable pre-school children with skills to approach a healthy, safe, informed, hopeful future.

Built in 2008 in Fairyland, in an informal settlement 10km outside of Paarl in the Western Cape Province. The **Butterfly House Special Early Childhood Programme** is therapeutic programme established to focus on the **most vulnerable preschool children** (2-5 yrs) throughout the district who do not fit into a normal ECD or their vulnerabilities may require specialised interventions.



The children are referred to Butterfly House from hospitals, clinics, other NGO's, community careworkers, parents asking for help and DPH staff who do community based work in the area.

Drakenstein Palliative Hospice cares for people

Drakenstein Palliative Hospice cares for people living with a life-threatening illness with an expectation of dying. However, we also care for patients, their families and the community

infected and affected by a life
threatening illness or
life limiting condition,
with an expectation of
living.

The Special ECD programme consists of 25 of the most vulnerable pre-school children who we transport from across the district if necessary.

Why the Early Childhood Programme?

Research has shown that half of a person's intelligence potential is developed by the age of 4; the purpose of this programme is to protect especially vulnerable child's rights to develop his or her full cognitive, emotional, social and physical potential. Our team approach ensures holistic interventions and care.

Our Interdisciplinary TAC (Team Around the Child) consists of an Occupational Therapist (OT); Social Worker (SW); Social Auxiliary Workers (SAW); Youth and Child Care Workers (YCCW); Prof Nurses and Community Home Based Caregivers (HBC). An individual **Holistic Development Careplan** is created in consultation with the TAC and the parents (primary caregivers). The development progress of the child is monitored and recorded by the TAC on a monthly basis.



Directors: M Laubscher (Vice-Chairman); N Ramailane (Chairman); A Venter; M von Backström; E Scrimgeour (CEO)

How we work



Cognitive Care

- Visual perception, body concept, colours, numbers
- Auditory groups and story telling
- Parental education, empowerment and support



Physical Care

- Fine and large motor skills
- Strong healthy bodies
- Physical confidence, personal hygiene, physical screening, self-care activities
- Pain and symptom management

Social Care



- Psychosocial support and assessment
- Children and Parents (caregivers) learn social skills
 - Interactive games, eating together, sharing and fun

Emotional Care



- Expressing and sharing feelings
- Learn to control and recognising emotions through emotional play (play room)
- Family support and bereavement counseling
- Building self-confidence and resilience

Our Approach

Our approach is to create a healthy, happy environment where children can both learn and experiment with skills and be physically and mentally healthy and skilled to manage future academic demands and social relationships with confidence and success.

Our Organisational Development Principles



Outcome for children:

Our vulnerable children are withdrawn, introverted, lack communication skills and are emotionally liable. We have observed that through our programmes providing one-on-one care and small groups that focus on individual needs and promoting accountability, self-worth (self-confidence), skills development, gender fairness and learning there is a positive change in their behaviour at BH and in their homes.



Outcome for parents:

Many parents in our community have not had the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and confidence to care for their own special children. The result has often led to handing over the care to institutions, other professionals or they have neglected the children. Through the Special ECD programme we equip primary caregivers with the necessary skills, knowledge and capabilities to competently look after their vulnerable children in their homes.

Development of self-efficacy:

Self-efficacy is the belief of one's ability to accomplish a task and influences perception, motivation and performance of the task. At Butterfly House we believe it is important to identify and enhance children's, and their primary caregivers, confidence and individual performance to develop self-efficacy.

Doing care in the community, by the community, with the community.... No end to hope

How we work

- The children attend the programmes 3 times a week. There is a high facilitator to child ratio.
- Primary caregivers are encouraged to attend programmes at least one a month, special care is taken to encourage a healthy child relationship between the child and his/her primary caregiver.
- Individual holistic developmental careplans are made for each child, which is monitored regularly by TAC.
- The DPH and BH staff work together and home visits are made by the interdisciplinary team as per careplan. Flags of concern that are addressed are absenteeism, medication non-compliance, stories, social concerns and emotional liability.

Our work is guided by our vision of community transformation and happy, optimal functioning families

Registration	Registration No	Registration Date
NPO	157-718 NPO	27/08/2015
NPC	2006/018395/08	08/06/2006
Educare	C 13-645	20/06/2017
Vat No	4740244886	

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