

Persona Doll Training
EMBRACING DIVERSITY

2023/24

ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

2023 was an exciting year. The opportunity to implement our teenage pregnancy prevention training in 8 districts of the Western Cape province was a fulfilling experience.

Here is a brief overview of our work during 2023:

- 250+ ECD practitioners and Foundation Phase educators trained in the Persona Doll methodology and approach.

- 200 educators in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases completed the Diversity training programme.

- 1000+ learners (Boys and Girls) in 24 schools from 8 districts in the Western Cape.

participated in our teenage pregnancy prevention programme.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION

One of the highlights of 2023 was to deliver the teenage pregnancy prevention programme in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Education.

The programme was delivered in the eight education districts with 24 participating schools.

Primary school girls in Grades 5 to 7 were selected for the training and in high schools boys and girls from Grades 8 to 11 participated in the programme.

It was a real eye opener for us to discover how little and inaccurate knowledge our young people have about sex and sexuality. This training was well-received by the learners and it is clear that the training should be delivered in all schools.



**TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION TRAINING
AT WORCESTER HIGH SCHOOL WITH GIRLS FROM GRADES 8 TO 11**

LEARNER FEEDBACK

Girls and boys enthusiastically participated in the training sessions and welcomed the training. It is clear that this training is important for our young people to ensure that they have the necessary tools to make the right decisions for their own futures.

Here are some reflections from the learners after the training:

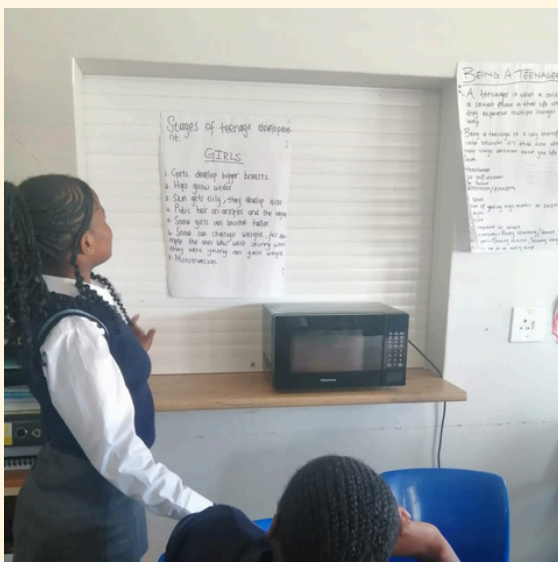
- I learned I can say no to sex.
- Ek wil nie op my 12 jaar oud 'n kind he nie.
- Ek wil my skool klaar maak.
- It (pregnancy) can damage a teenager's career.
- Teenagers are not ready to take up the responsibility of a child.
- Om grense te stel voordat jy in die situasie is.
- I liked that you have to make a choice in your life.
- Ek het geleer as jy vroeg swanger raak gaan jy nie al jou drome behaal nie.
- What you can do not to get pregnant.
- To never have sex under the age of 16.
- If you have sex under the age of 16 it is rape.
- "I learned not to bully others and not to engage in underage sex;
rather, I will wait until I am older."
- I enjoyed everything today, particularly learning about sex, bullying, and sexting.
- I did not appreciate when some boys were disruptive during the training.
- I will try to help people understand everything we talked about.



Our experience with the training and interaction with the learners highlighted the need for teenage pregnancy prevention training to be conducted in all schools. The learners have very little or no accurate knowledge of sex, sexuality, their rights and how to prevent early pregnancy.

The Western Cape Education Department must be applauded for creating this opportunity for the learners to gain more knowledge to positively impact their lives and their futures.

We would like to be afforded the opportunity to return to the schools and interact with the learners who attended the training. The follow-up visits will give us an opportunity to engage learners on what changes they have made and how the training impacted on their decision making about sex.



There is still a huge demand for Persona Doll Training from ECD practitioners. Feedback from ECD practitioners emphasizes the importance of the training in dealing with diversity and inclusion with young children. The dolls and their stories, coupled with the unique methodology and approach, ensures that ECD practitioners deal with issues of physical and emotional abuse effectively in the classroom.

Young children easily open up to the dolls are about the challenges that they experience at home or in school. The dolls become the children's best friend. We believe that we are changing young children's world "one doll at a time."

We pride ourselves in the impact that the Persona Doll Training approach and methodology has made in the ECD space over the past 19 years. May our work continue to change the future of our children and contribute to quality early childhood education programmes.



We thank all our funders and partners for their support during 2023 that enabled us to continue our work with youth, ECD practitioners and teachers.



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