# Western Cape Foundation for Community Work

*There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.*

*Education is the most powerful lesson which you can use to change the world.*

*Without education your children can never really meet the challenges they will face.*

*No child in Africa, and in fact, anywhere in the world, should be denied education.*

# Annual Report 2017/2018

## *Introduction*

Locally and internationally the value of good preschool education is recognised. ECD experience and participation enhances a child's ability to learn, work with others and develop social skills that are the foundation for formal learning and social interaction in the school years and beyond. Failure to develop these foundational skills can lead to long-term, often irreversible effects on educational attainment, health and productive earnings, which later result in significant costs for both individuals and society (Heckman and Masterov 2007). We however know that preschool provision is skewed and that the bulk of our children under the age of 6 years still cannot access preschool services because of poverty and many are still struggling to access Grade R in order to prepare them for the challenges of the school system.

At FCW it became important for us to look at our FIF programme to assess whether our programme and intervention is making a difference. In this regard recent research and evaluation of our work showed that our home visiting programme has the potential to make a significant impact if we improve on the delivery systems.

Quality of delivery is well documented where it is easier to monitor the manner in which a practitioner delivers the activities in a classroom. For this reason we have to establish a benchmark for the FIF programme to ensure that children are well prepared for the formal school environment.

The following studies on the FIF programme speaks to our efforts to improve the intervention.

### 1. Research on school readiness and ability of children in the FIF Programme

During 2017, Dr Karen Daniels conducted a pilot study over 3 project areas to assess school readiness and the capacity of children aged 4 to 6 years old. Three schools in 3 communities of Mitchell's Plain, Klapmuts and Franschhoek were selected for this study. The sample consisted of 238 children, of which 126 children were involved in the pre-evaluation phase, and 112 children for the post evaluation phase. The difference of 14 children between the pre and post evaluations were largely due to the Grade R teacher at one school not submitting her report. However, the final assessment indicated that the FIF programme plays a critical role and is effective in contributing to the holistic development of children. The responses for the children included in the sample were recorded on a 4-point Likert scale. The following domains were covered:

**Socio-emotional development –** 39% of children previously assessed on giving attention to story-telling showed an increase of 74.3%. Similarly, a small percentage **–** 35% of children who "interacts during mealtimes" during the pre-evaluation assessment showed a 51.4% increase of interaction during mealtime and initiated communication and play with their peers.

**The cognitive development** of the children in the study reflected improvements in the following areas: "know their address and phone number" increased from 26.8% to 40.6%; "counts to 20 by memorisation/routine" increased from 37.5% to 60.2%; "build a 12-piece puzzle" increased from 33.3% to 58%, and understands the concepts of counting, sorting and grouping increased from 37.6% to 53.6%.

**Language and communication development –** this area reflected moderate increases. Children's ability to recall parts of or re-tell stories increased from 49% to 54%; using future tenses and knowing more than 100 words increased from 47%-54.1%. However, children's ability to understand the relationship between letters, sounding out words or recognising letters of the alphabet only marginally increased from 21%-27.7%.

**Health and safety –** 60% to 90% of children have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation inside or outside of their homes, and both caregivers and children presented as neat and tidy.

Although the FIF programme does not make provision for **nutrition**, the study highlighted that caregivers understood the importance of good nutrition and striving to ensure that children have breakfast, and the inclusion of fruit and vegetables in their children's diets.

### 2. Research on the FIF Programme 2015–2017

Dr Hlalani Gumpo did a similar study which started in 2015 in Mitchell's Plain where 16 home visitors in the area participated in an evaluation of the FIF programme with the intention to assess the impact of the programme on children's preparation for school. For the purposes of the study, 1 area, Heinz Park, was selected. There were only 6 home visitors who had 26 children in the age group 5-6 years (ideally they should have been in Grade R at primary school).

The children in the FIF programme served as a control group, while 24 children in a Grade R class at a primary school in the same area served as a comparison group. A pre- and post-test was conducted over a one-year period to compare the differential growth rate of the groups (the FIF children and the Grade R classroom group). The results are as follows:

| Developmental Areas | Test used | Results summary |
|---|---|---|
| Language skills | Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT) | 16 children scored a higher test result at post-test; 1 child scored a lower test result. |
| Gross Motor skills | ECDC South African test norms | 60% of the children displayed normal or above age related gross motor skills at pre-test, and 70% at post-test. |
| Fine motor skills | ECDC South African test norms | 30% of the children displayed normal or above age related fine motor skills at pre-test and 30% at post-test. |
| Cognitive skills | ECDC South African test norms | 40% of the children displayed normal or above age related cognitive skills at pre and post-test |

The report acknowledged that socio-economic factors can influence children's preparation for school. Fifteen heads of households in the programme group (FIF group) were unemployed while 16 heads of households in the comparison group were employed. Maternal education also plays an important role in ECD preparation and the study found that only one mother from both groups had educational qualifications beyond grade 12. The majority of caregivers in both groups did not study beyond grade 11. The presence or involvement of fathers in the children's lives were similar with the programme group reporting 6 absent fathers compared to 5 absent fathers in the comparison group.

The study acknowledged that there are various types of ECD programmes and the poorest communities are least likely to have access to ECD services and this increases the developmental gap for these children compared to children from more advantaged families. The researcher also acknowledges that alternative ECD programmes such as the FIF home visiting programme helps to alleviate the access problem. The better the quality of the ECD programme and service, the better the outcomes for children going to school. However, even good quality programmes cannot mitigate the adverse effects of poverty completely (Gumpo, 2017).

**The following Recommendations were made:**

1. **Implementation fidelity:** The researcher recommended that efforts should be made to increase the fidelity of the programme implementation. A higher standard of programme implementation is required if the organisation wants to improve developmental outcomes for children.

2. **Setting a benchmark for quality:** In setting a benchmark, it is necessary to establish what the minimum levels required to achieve a positive effect are:
   - 2.1 **Dosage and frequency of home visits** for each child in the FIF programme.
   - 2.2 **Recruitment procedures** or conditional recruitment into the programme should become more stringent. Participating families must be indigent or in receipt of some form of social security or a child-support grant. The beneficiary children should not be attending an existing pre-school programme.
   - 2.3 **Duration and period of participation:** ideally participating caregivers and their children should be part of the programme for two years, but should not exceed the 24-month participation period.
   - 2.4 **Home visitor training:** home visitor turn-over is a recurring theme, and could be mitigated by more suitable training and accreditation to improve the status of the qualifications. Home visitors should be equipped to conduct programme activities without feeling overwhelmed.
   - 2.5 **Data collection and documentation:** The need to create balance between the data collection function of home visitors and the reporting/documenting responsibilities of Project Co-ordinators. Home visitors have to understand the importance of the function to improve programme effectiveness.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Racial distribution percentage of those aged 0-4 years:**
White: 5% Indian/Asian: 2% Coloured: 8% Black African: 85%

## *Tribute to Prof Richard van der Ross (17th November 1921-13th December 2017)*

In the space of two years we have paid tribute to Prof Adam Small, the first Director at FCW who passed away during June 2016. Sadly this year, during December 2017, Prof Richard van der Ross, a long-serving Patron of the organisation also passed on. Prof van der Ross' association with FCW goes back to the early 1970s when he was appointed Principal of the Early Learning Centre in Athlone, which was funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation in the Netherlands. At the time Prof van der Ross was an inspector employed by the Education Department who seconded him to his new venture in ECD.

Under his leadership, several ground-breaking projects in ECD was started to make the Early Learning Centre (ELC) a beacon of hope for young children. He made sure that he employed a multi-disciplinary team that involved teachers, social workers, psychologists and health professionals to support children in their formative years. Under his guidance several pioneering projects was started that included the nursery school programme, home school programme, teacher-aid programme, the home early learning programme (HELP) which became the forerunner of today's FIF home visiting programme.

In addition, the establishment of BABS and ELRU as projects of the ELC was also part of his intervention. These projects became independent and flourishing NGOs. In 1974 Prof van der Ross was appointed Rector of the University of the Western Cape but remained connected to the ECD work he started at the ELC. In 1983, when FCW took over the management of the ELC, Dr Franklin Sonn invited Prof van der Ross to serve as a Patron of FCW, which he gladly accepted.

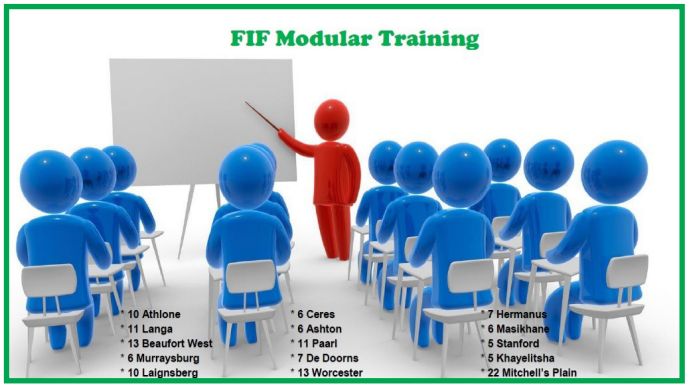
***Prof van der Ross on the occasion when he visited the Early Learning Centre on the 20th May 2014.***

## *ECD Roundtable and farewell of Mrs. Julinda Kruger*

On the 25th January 2017, FCW hosted a roundtable conference to address the concerns around the provincial and national ECD agenda, and how donors and funders have taken over the agenda. ECD service providers agreed that they have to develop a stronger advocacy voice to ensure that the development agenda in the ECD sector is once again driven by NGOs. The need to strengthen partnerships locally, provincially and nationally was considered an important step to ensure effective collaboration amongst ECD organisations. It involved a host of local ECD partners such as ELRU, Grassroots, CECD, Early Years Services, Ikamva Labantu, Sikhula Sonke, SA Congress for ECD and officials from the DSD Head Office. The rector acknowledged her involvement in expanding ECD services in the Western Cape. Her farewell also afforded us the opportunity to formally meet the new ECD Director, Mrs. Tughfa Hamdulay.

***Saying goodbye to Mrs. Julinda Kruger after a career that spanned nearly 40 years with the DSD, and her last 10 years as Provincial ECD Manager and Director.***

## *About FCW*


FCW continues to support 245 Home Visitors in the FIF programme, reaching 9 412 children and 8 479 parents/caregivers across the Western Cape.

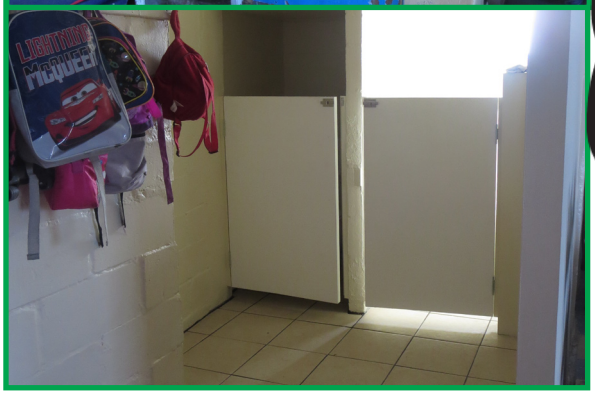
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**FIF Outreach:** Home Visitors: 247 Families: 8479 Children – 0-2 years: 4827
3-4 years: 3007 5-6 years: 1390 Over 6 years: 188

## *Overview of the ECD Conditional Grant*

FCW is managing the ECD Conditional Grant-Maintenance Project on behalf of the Provincial Department of Social Development. The purpose of this project is to address health and safety and other infra-structural risks compromising minimum norms and standards which will move ECDs from conditional registration to full registration. The grant is for maintenance matters, minor upgrades, the provision of early learning resource materials and basic furniture and equipment. During the reporting period we completed 158 assessments and/or re-assessments across the Western Cape to determine the maintenance and learning material needs of the ECD facilities as well as their registration status. On recommendation from the Department of Social Development, maintenance work was completed at 13 conditionally registered ECD facilities. About 1081 children benefitted from the maintenance work done and the provision of learning materials, resources and equipment at the completed 13 ECD facilities. We held Information and Capacity Building Sessions at FCW with upgraded ECD facilities that serve as a support structure to ensure sustainability.

During our initial assessment at Kingdom Kidz, we discovered an ECD centre faced with many infra-structural risks – asbestos roof with no ceilings, unprotected electrical wires, rusted window frames, broken doors and windows, unhygienic ablution facilities, damp walls, unsafe outside wall, no floor cover and very little early learning resource materials.



Kingdom Kids has been operating under bad conditions for a long time. Parents saw these conditions but kept on and brought their kids year after year hoping for a good future. Our passion kept the parents and us going.

Till FCW project came and upgraded the structure and gave us educational toys. The upgrading impacted the community and the children because before the children couldn't come to the centre because of a leaking roof and cold building. Now every day is a happy day, we even have educational resources. Children used to sit on the floor, now they all have chairs.

We couldn't be registered because of the shortage of mattresses. So much was so wrong, and we couldn't afford it but as the community of Site B Khayelitsha and the founder, Gloria Gum-Kuzanga said, “We are thankful and know that many children still to be born will benefit from what was done by FCW.”

## *FCW's Literacy Programme*

The Literacy Program was first implemented in Langa in May 2017.The aim of the programme is to equip and engage with parents around early literacy skills to benefit their children. The literacy programme revolves around community libraries as this promotes a community learning space and wonderful opportunities for literacy development. Involving parents in this project is a priority. Parent involvement includes sharing stories with their children, and ensuring that every child registers for a library card. We have managed to register 36 children for library cards in Langa last year and we are utilizing our training from Word Works to provide informative literacy workshops for parents. Due to the success of the programme in Langa we have extended the programme to Khayelitsha. In both Langa and Khayelitsha, we are working closely with the library staff to ensure that their libraries remain interesting and attractive places for our children and their parents. Libraries provide a fun and safe learning environment for children where they can learn to love reading, books and open up their world to many possibilities through imagination and education.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Percentage of young children aged 0-4 who live in urban or non-urban environments in the Western Cape:** Urban: 96% Non-Urban: 4%

## *Partnership Building*

### Do More Foundation, FIF and Wordworks

FCW's partnership with Wordworks, supported by Do More Foundation is still going strong. With a key focus on the "Every Word Counts" Programme, 11 Home visitors and 40 ECD practitioners were trained. The Graduation took place in Worcester at APD (Breede Valley Association for Persons with Disabilities) on the 16th November 2018. Home visitors and ECD practitioners alike found the training very informative. The home visitors were easily able to integrate the learnings into their existing FIF Home Visiting programme. The practitioners demonstrated how they took all knowledge and experience gained in the training and implemented it in their daily lives as well as in their work environment.

***Mr. Warren Farrer, Mr. Allie, Mrs. Pam Picken and FCW trainers joined the celebration.***

### NECDA/Unicef Parenting Programme

The partnership between NECDA and Unicef presented ECD organisations with the opportunity to roll out parenting programmes across South Africa. The programme started in October 2017 and FCW had a target of 1200 parents. The programme involves 11 sessions with a pre- and post-test. To date 394 parents completed their Unicef Certificate, and another 500 will receive their certificates this year.

***Elsies River parents' graduation of the NECDA programme***

### International Social Workers Day

The International Social Work Day has become a standard event on the FCW calendar where FCW and other organisations make effort to celebrate the achievements of local social workers at the coalface. Social Work is closely associated with FCW due to the fact that Prof Adam Small, who served as the first Director of the organisation also became the HoD of Social Work at UWC, whilst the former Chairperson of the FCW Board, Dr Lionel Louw served as HoD of Social Work at UCT. This year the event was held at the Pinelands Town Hall, on 20th March 2017 to accommodate the visiting team from Howard University, USA Present with members of the Western Cape NASW are: ***Prof Lambrecht (Stellenbosch University), Dr Gary Spolander (Coventry University), Prof Theodore Snell, and Prof Sandra Crewe (Howard University)***.


### Botswana Delegation visits FCW

During the week of the 8-11th May 2017, a Botswana delegation visited the Western Cape and FCW hosted them on the 9th May where we had the opportunity to showcase our Family in Focus programme and its relevance for poor communities, where resources and infrastructure was lacking. The delegation was keen to learn more about the FIF programme and the possibilities of implementation in some Botswana districts. Ms Ivy Rapoo from the National DSD office indicated that the delegation would present options to the Department and UNICEF for possible programme exchange and implementation in the near future.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Distribution of young children in the Western Cape:**
10% of the 5.3 million children in South Africa aged 0-4 years live in Western Cape.

# FCW

**FCW registered as the Western Cape Foundation for Community Work**
**SGW geregistreerd as die Wes-Kaaplandse Stigting vir Gemeenskapswerk**

## Our Vision for the Future

FCW sees children, families and marginalized communities, with strengthened wings, soaring towards their chosen destiny, believing the impossible is …

**I'm Possible**

## Our Mission

In pursuit of our Vision, FCW is a dynamic development organization enabling transformation in Southern Africa by responding to felt needs of children, families and marginalized communities through innovative, integrated and sustainable interventions, which build on their strengths.

This process is guided by:

- development integrity
- democracy
- self-determination
- contextual relevance
- celebration of diversity
- independence
- community ownership
- collaboration in partnerships

## Board of Management

Chairperson:
Advocate Lynette Myburgh

Vice-Chairperson:
Ms Nuraan Marlie

Treasurer:
Mr James Williams

Additional Members:
Ms Zelda Pieters
Mr Mbulelo Nosthulwana
Mr Stafford Isaacs
Clr John Cornelius Anthony
Ms Zukiswa Mfuphi
Mr George Gibbs (retired Nov. 2017)

## Our Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Director: | Mr Riedewhaan Allie |
| Secretariat: | Ms Amanda Petersen |
| Operations Manager: | Ms Nafeesa Rahbeeni |
| Financial Unit: | Mr Edmund Petersen |
| | Ms Barbara Miller |
| Researcher: | Dr Karen Daniels |
| M & E Specialist: | Mr Fortune Hogwe |

### Programme Staff:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ms Camelita Christians | Ms Angelique Simon |
| Ms Dorothy Jones | Mr Ayanda Nondinyana |
| Ms Julita Dorman | Mr Allister Lightburn |
| Mr Anees Adams | Ms Mu-Mina Petersen |
| Ms Shabnam Makda | Mr Terrance November |
| Mr Kevin Johnson | Ms Jade Wasserman |
| Ms Magrieta Lesch | |

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|---|---|
| Housekeeping: | Ms Saadiqah Holloway |
| | Ms Avril Abrahams |
| Maintenance: | Mr Jason Pareira |
| | Mr Jason Theron |

## Acknowledgements

Western Cape Government – BETTER TOGETHER.
COMMUNITY CHEST
ApexHi Charitable Trust
Imam Abdullah Haron Education Trust
Clothing Guild Cape Town & Suburban
National Lottery NLDTF
Do More Foundation
NDA National Development Agency