

THE EASTER BUNNY

In April the Easter Bunny delivered another very generous donation of Easter Eggs from the staff and children at Riviera Nursery School. A big THANK YOU to you all!!! The eggs were shared out between the various homes that we are currently involved with and were much appreciated by the children and their care givers too. Here are some of the games we played and the stories we heard...



Mother Teresa's

Toddlers from Mother Teresa were treated to an Easter Egg Hunt! Therapists playing the role of the "Easter Bunny" hid the Eggs high and low for the children to find. The children showed much excitement in collecting all

the Easter Eggs and participated with enthusiasm. Elements of peer compassion and group work were displayed by the older children in helping the younger children to find the eggs. The hunt was a new, exciting activity for the children as they previously have not had opportunities to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. After the high energy hunt, the children were rewarded for their efforts with the delight of chocolate covered marshmallow eggs! Yay!



Ethembeni Children's Home

The Easter Bunny found some time in his busy schedule to visit Ethembeni Children's Home to treat the children there to some yummy eggs. The therapist gave the chocolate eggs on behalf of the Easter Bunny and one child (4year old) was specifically interested in him and started asking questions: "Does the bunny bath himself?" Yes, the therapist replied. "Does he have a special bunny bed?" Yes, the therapist replied. He wanted to know so many details and was very impressed that the bunny was able to do all of these things on his own! The therapist asked if she should phone the Easter Bunny and all the kids shouted YES! She made a mock call and the kids were hanging on her words! The Easter Bunny sent his love and told all the kids they were very special and sorry he couldn't be there personally because he was on holiday in Cape Town. He asked the therapist to teach them his Bunny Dance!! For weeks after that the children kept on doing the bunny dance and asking about the Bunny's whereabouts. The eggs gave the children more than just a moment of enjoyment...the Bunny's legacy lasted for several weeks afterwards! Thank you for providing them that opportunity!



Introducing the rest of our team:

Mandy Kearney

I'm Mandy and I am based at Botshabelo Home. I qualified from WITS in 2003 and have been working with children for 6 years. I spent 3½ years in the UK, working in the NHS Childrens Services and moved back to South Africa 2 years ago. I am also working in private practice and am in the process of completing my SI training. I am passionate about training caregivers and teachers in skills to support children's development both at home and school. I enjoy working at Botshabelo - it is a very loving and caring environment for the children.



Betsy Coville

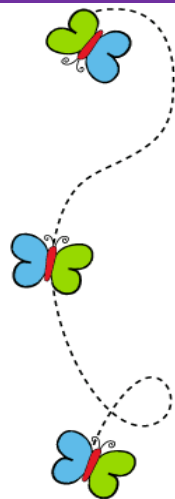


Hi! I'm Betsy and working at Thusanani has given me a wonderful new opportunity to share the skills and knowledge I've gained as an OT over the past 35 years.

My OT degree is from Boston University in the US. Over the years I've worked in a variety of settings, but paediatrics has been my main focus for several years. My work experience has included involvement in school-based OT in Connecticut, New Mexico, and Colorado as well as here in South Africa.

After working for 18 years at Forest Town School for Cerebral Palsied Children here in Johannesburg, it was time for me to make a change. Since September, 2010, I've been at Thusanani in the Adoption Clinic as well as working with some of the children at Oasis. The children, their care-givers, and my colleagues have all been a pleasure to get to know. Every day at Thusanani brings new interest, challenges, and fun!

COMPLIMENTS FROM DENMARK



In April we had a visitor from Denmark – Tina Schwendson, from AC International Child Support. Tina is responsible for the South African Adoption Programme. Tina was visiting from Denmark and came through to our offices with Candice from Impilo. Tina was aware of Thusanani as our reports often accompany the children who are adopted overseas. She was interested to meet us and to discuss our work. One of Tina's colleagues, Jette Wurtz, had recently contacted us regarding the developmental checklists we use. These checklists were found to be very useful by the Danish Paediatricians. Jette works mainly in West Africa and wanted to know if we would be happy to share our checklists with them to use in the West Africa region (amongst others). As she put it "The forms do exactly comply with our needs in West Africa among others. Our experience in West Africa shows us that our partners there normally do not have the same way of following the children's development yet as we do. What we realize is that the staff and directors often compare the situation of the child when

the child arrives at the center with the moment of our request. Therefore we are often told that the child has developed - but in fact the development is seen from the time when the child comes to the center - not compared to the child's age etc. Therefore the forms are perfect. Furthermore I would like to compliment the fact that the forms are with drawings and easy-understanding text, which is also very important in order to make the staff easily understand what we focus on and what we mean while talking about a child's milestones etc."

It is always lovely to receive positive feedback on our work and to know that we are having an impact further afield. We are looking forward to hearing how the forms are being used in Madagascar, Mali and Burkino Faso!!!



Fiona with our most recent graduates from the Community Training Workshop during their Toy Making Day!

Winter Wish List

Curtains

Thank you to the response to our request for curtains. We have received several donations and are a little snuggler in our therapy areas and the offices now – just in time for the cold weather!!! However, we still need some help to custom make curtains for the large windows in our main therapy area.

Sponsor for our training kits

These training kits are distributed in our training of care-workers from crèches in rural areas

PVA paint – red, blue and yellow for use in our training of care-workers

Digital Camera

A shredder for our office

A dedicated part-time volunteer to assist with administrative tasks

This would mainly involve computer based tasks. We don't require a large amount of time per week, but request that the volunteer would be consistent.

THANK YOU!!!

If you would like to support us, you can make a secure Credit Card Donation via our website (click on the green button on our home page). Alternatively the following are our banking details:

Bank: Nedbank

Name of Account: The Thusanani Children's Foundation

Branch: Melrose Arch

Branch Code: 196-605

Account Number: 1966 466226

