



Video 3:

## The Need for Occupational Therapy Support for ECD

**Indiana Xaki**  
Teacher  
Home of Love ECD Centre

We used to think that a child's education starts when they go to primary school. But now we learned that actually when they go to primary school they're supposed to have a foundation.

**Rosemary Luger**  
Occupational Therapist  
Chaeli Campaign

We're trying to ultimately get children better prepared before they start primary school. So that they're not set up for failure if they get to Grade 1 and they don't have the basic kind of underlying skills that are going to allow them to start reading and writing and doing maths.

So we try and work with the schools um or the early childhood development centres. So we work with the 3 to 5 year olds and generally the schools that have less resources and the teachers are less experienced.

### How did we start?

**Zoleka Magobozi**  
Teacher  
Presbyterian Phumlani ECD centre

Bukiwe one day came to our crèche and then he asked if we have got children with disabilities or children with who are hyper-active. Then we explained everything to Bukiwe and then she said she's got a lady here in Pink House, Rosemary, who can go to our crèche to help us to those children. She started about 2 children who have a problem of stiff fingers who cannot manipulate the scissors.

**Rosemary Luger**  
Occupational Therapist  
Chaeli Campaign

When we were supporting sort of individual children the teachers always said to us, "that is very nice to come and support this child with cerebral palsy or whatever, but what about the other 1/3 of my class who's also struggling, who's also not going to pass at the end of the year?"

So ja we realised that working with individual children we just didn't have the capacity to do that. So we decided we needed to try and work with the teachers and parents who're with the kids all the time and really to empower them to help the kids at home and at school and um and that that would be far more effective than trying to work with the odd individual child.

### Teaching beyond the curriculum

**Nozukile Jingisa**  
Principal  
Ithemba ECD centre

We need to deal with the children in a dignity manner; in a respectful manner.

**Zoleka Magobozi**  
Teacher  
Presbyterian Phumlani ECD centre

Give them more time because they are different children and they are coming from different homes. Some of them may be abused that's why they are suffering. You must look at all these angles, so that you can be sure what is going on with a child.

**Rosemary Luger**  
Occupational Therapist  
Chaeli Campaign

I mean it's it's little things. Just seeing the teachers think about, ooh, this child's not drawing this child's not writing nicely, let me think how are they holding their pencil, how are they sitting, um let's work on their shoulder stability, let's work on their fine movements.

### The need for effective play

*Transcript: Chaeli Campaign (OT Support)*

**Rosemary Luger**  
Occupational Therapist  
Chaeli Campaign

Often teachers see it as play and don't necessarily value play. Um so we try and highlight all the things the child is learning through that and how that is going translate to later. Their muscles being strong enough that they can actually sit still when they are at a table and expected to sit and write.

Playing with a ball is developing their eye hand coordination. That's going to help them later on to hold their pencil and to be able to look at the board and to come back and look at their page. Sort of just helping them make the links between what they see as play and maybe don't value so much.

**Zoleka Magobozi**  
Teacher  
Presbyterian Phumlani ECD centre

Playing and outdoor play is another activity which is good for the children. There are different areas, there's sandpit, there's jungle gyms, swings, bean bags, whatever. The child mustn't play in one place every day, they must rotate playing outside. You must be up, you must jump. So it's physical activity.

**Bukiwe Mkhuba**  
Community Worker/Parent of a child with a disability

So they are getting their fine motor skills stronger.

**Expanding the programme**

**Rosemary Luger**  
Occupational Therapist  
Chaeli Campaign

Obviously we would like to roll it out in in more areas, but also just to kind of give other specialists out there – or other therapists – the idea, that if you want to help the child, rather work with the parents and the teachers and make it a long term relationship.

**ENDS**