



Video 6:
Occupational Therapy Support: Pre-school parent programme

Parents are their child’s first teacher

Zelda Mycroft
 CEO
 Chaeli Campaign

Parents are the people who juggle hope and reality. We see the ability, we, we make opportunities for that ability, and we actively work towards good stuff happening in our children’s lives.....particularly around the functional aspects. In our early childhood development programme, mothers and the primary caregivers have to be partners in the learning process. Half of this process focuses on teaching the mothers and the caregivers what the skills are that their children need...and why they need them to successfully engage in Grade R activities.

Rosemary Luger
 Occupational Therapist
 Chaeli Campaign

Parents often don’t know what to do 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.

Practical help for parents

Rosemary Luger
 Occupational Therapist
 Chaeli Campaign

With the parents we do invite them to a workshop, um it runs over 3 weeks, and each session is about 2 hours and we try to show them what is expected of their child at different ages um often they have no idea what what kind of demands are going to be placed on the child in Grade 1.

So we start from there what what the school is going to expect of their child and then go through different ideas to do at home in their everyday activities that they’re doing with them just to help the child develop those skills. So whether it means um giving them more instructions, expecting them to do more around the house, taking them on more outings, um exposing them to the library, taking them to the beach, taking them to the local playground, just to um give them ideas of how they can support their kids at home.

And then we go on to looking at how do I help the child, um, be able to um hold the pencil well, how do I help the child be able to, to skip if they not skipping. It’s very practical – the parents get to do, to experience the kind of activities that the kids are having to do at school.

Feedback from parents

Lungelo Kali
 Parent

I came because my child is important to me and what he does – I must be part of it.

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

Sometimes as parents we would say “no, no, no – you are messing my house; don’t tear papers”, not knowing that they are getting a skill out of that tearing those papers.

Rose Daka
 Parent

I learnt a lot – especially about the one, the first one, who was 6 years, because most of the time I used to shout him, I didn’t realise that I’m wrong. Now I know what I supposed to say to her. So now I can communicate, I can make my child as a friend and teach her what is wrong, what is right. I want to see her grow up and to go to overseas (chuckle chuckle).

Transcript: Chaeli Campaign (OT Support)

Bukiwe Mkhuba I've learnt that even though my child is disabled, they're still um the same as a normal
Community Worker/Parent of a child. I should love my child.
a child with a disability

ENDS