

# Heaven-on-Earth Project

Report to our sponsors and friends



October to December 2023

## Highlights and impact of the past 3 months



“I continue to believe that, if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams.”

-David Vitter-

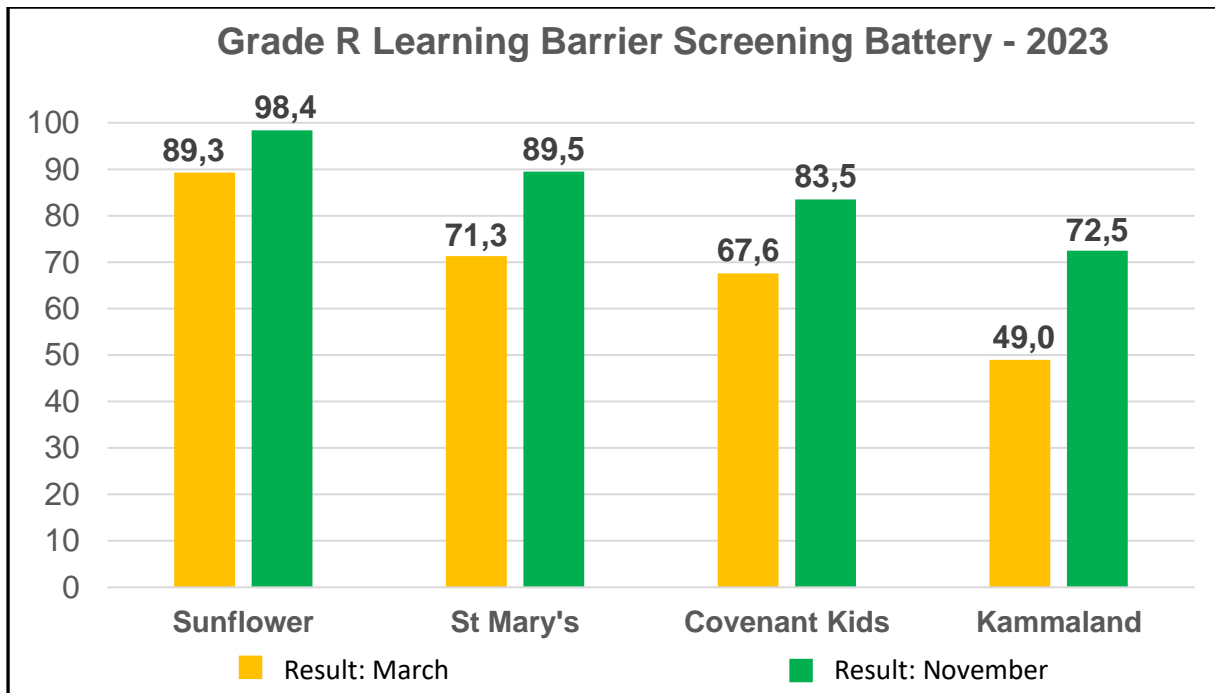
## Impact of HOEP's early remedial intervention in 2023

Number of ECD-Centres reached	Number of learners who received weekly remedial intervention	Number of educators trained to present the intervention in their own classes
99	2 590	151

## External Assessment Results

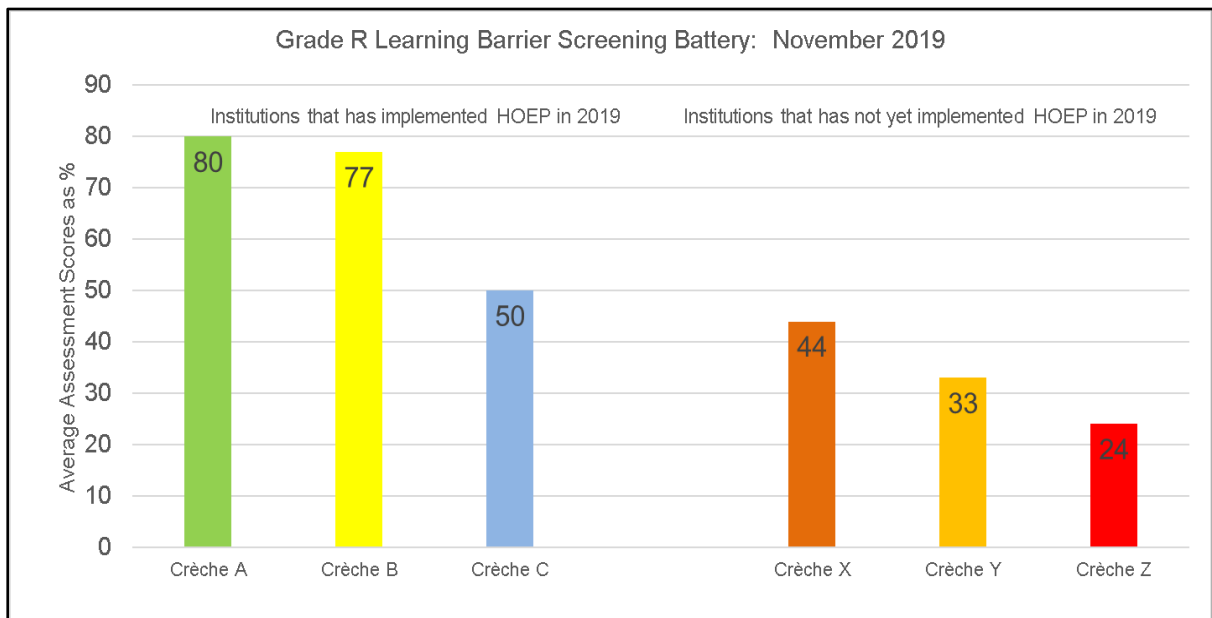
This year, the learners from four schools on the HOEP program were tested at the beginning of the year. The same groups of learners have just been tested again to determine if any growth in relation to school readiness has taken place in the eight months since March. We are delighted to share the following results with you:

Name of ECD-Centre	Sunflower (Delft)	St Mary's (Lwandle)	Covenant Kids (Strand)	Kammaland (Grabouw)	Average
Schoolreadiness Results, March 2023	89,3	71,3	67,6	49,0	69,3
Schoolreadiness Results, November 2023	98,4	89,5	83,5	72,5	<b>85,98</b>



Most of the learners who were assessed received HOEP intervention in their grade RR year as well.

From previous external measurements, we could see the difference between the results of crèches that followed the HOEP program versus crèches that were not on the program at the time of testing:



**Crèches A, B and C:**

School readiness percentage of three crèches which implemented and followed the intervention program in 2019.

**Crèches X, Y and Z:**

School readiness percentage of three crèches which had NOT implemented and followed the HOEP intervention program at the time of testing. These three crèches only started with the program in January 2020.

## Non-measurable impact

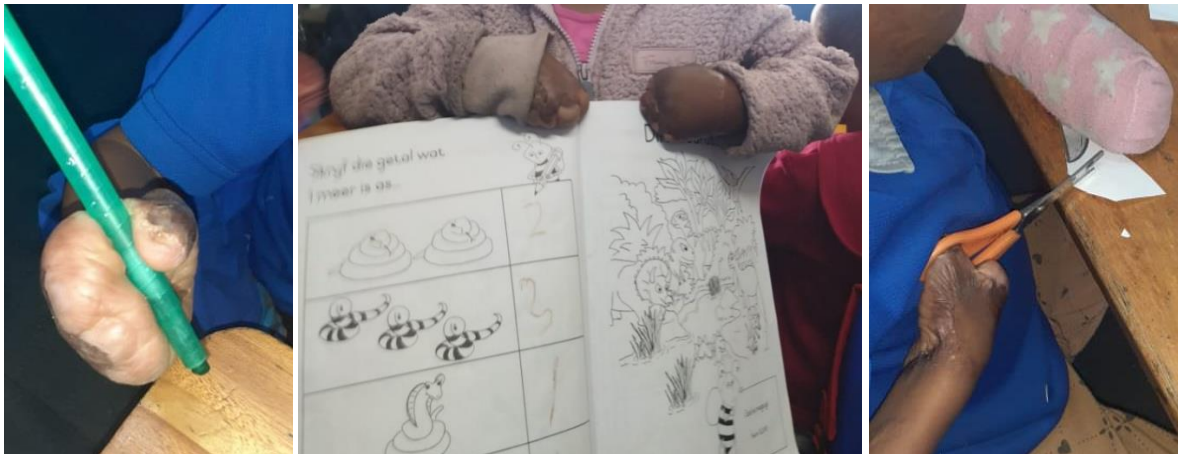
More important than any measurement results to determine impact, is the difference made in the lives and hearts of the people reached.

### Small girl ... Gigantic inspiration!

When we look at the five-year-old Linomtha, we realise that, as a project team, we can do measurements and assessments as much as we want and present the most amazing results to sponsors, but that the real difference made, lies much deeper... it lies where life-changing impact is made ... and that is not always measurable.

In her short life, Linomtha has been through more trauma and pain and suffering than most people face in a lifetime. Linomtha was completely burnt as a small child. Her entire body was burnt. Her little face burnt. She no longer has fingers or toes... The mere fact that Linomtha is alive is a miracle.

Ami and Gerrit Coetzee (from Agapé Family Ministries in Grabouw) were and still are her angels. They embraced her with love and took her into their facility when neither mother nor father cared anymore for this little girl. She started her pre-school days at their section for learners with special needs. In January this year we expanded the HOEP program to Agapé. The young learners in the regular grade RR and R classes jumped right into the program. The educator of the pupils with special needs was initially sceptical, but nevertheless started to do the remedial work with Linomtha.



Linomtha was so excited! She taught herself to hold a pencil with her non-existing fingers, she learned to cut, she mastered perceptual tasks and began to recognise and form numbers. She was recently moved to a regular grade RR class. Linomtha is blossoming!

Thank you Jesus.

## Ready for "big school!"



Above: Learners working on improving their mathematical skills on concrete and abstract levels during the term. Many crèches do not have all the necessary equipment. At HOEP, however, the educators learn that we can make plans with what is available in the area.

Above, middle: No counters, no problem! We still get the same outcome using pebbles or stones!

Below: Learners work on semi-abstract and abstract levels.



Below: During the term the teachers also worked hard on emergent reading and emergent writing. This is the step where learners are introduced to the 12 high-frequency sounds and where they learn to identify the beginning-, middle- and end sounds of short words.

It is so fulfilling to see how independent and school-ready the learners become by the end of the year!



## Ready for life!



Above: Language and Life Skills are also very important aspects that we focus on weekly at HOEP. Theme tables stimulate the natural curiosity of the learners. The educators are trained to use these themes to expand the learners' vocabulary, to broaden their general knowledge and to guide them in applying their new knowledge practically.

This term it was possible to see, amongst many other aspects, how the theme "Vegetables" was explained practically to the learners: from the process of germinating bean seeds, to the planting of vegetables at school, and on to the beautiful outcome where learners could see how their vegetables grew and finally where they could eat their veggies!



Left: The Word of the Lord is also conveyed to the young learners weekly through exciting activities from our book "Crafts for Kingdom Kids". During the theme "Birds", the learners made the most beautiful art works, they did observations with their bird feeders, and above all, they learned that God who takes care of the sparrows, will so much more take care of them!

## More highlights of the past 3 months

### Empowerment of our team

Our team continues to take on every opportunity to learn as much as possible regarding aspects related to our remedial field. The workshop that Marianne Kooij (from the Netherlands) presented especially for our HOEP team on young learners with low vision was a highlight. The knowledge she gained over many years in Tanzania, Ghana and the Congo was shared with us regarding the impact of low vision, the identification and practical solutions within different class situations. We look forward to sharing this knowledge with the educators.



## Christmas with the Toyota Knights

The Toyota Knights (top dealers of Toyota vehicles in South Africa) this year once again blessed two crèches' pupils with the most wonderful Christmas gifts. Apart from the fact that it was a day of absolute joy for us and for the little ones, it was also a highlight for us to be able to experience how the children understand the true meaning of Christmas.



## "Stronger Together!"

Every visit from companies to our project (such as CS Property Group, this term) are special highlights for us during which we always realise just how big the difference is that can be made together.





HOEP and the Department of Education in the Overberg also joined hands in November. HOEP will hence forth share our internal measurement results of crèches in Grabouw and Botrivier with the Department's Speech and Occupational Therapist from that area at the end of every year. The aim with this collaboration is that the Department will know who the learners with backlogs are and that they will then be able to assist those learners timeously in their grade 1 year. According to them, the teachers at the primary schools take too long in identifying backlogs and in making referrals. This leads to many of the students leaving the school system prematurely because they cannot keep up with the class group. We are grateful to be able to ensure early assistance to these learners through our measurement results.

## A HUGE Thank You!

We thank our Heavenly Father for our sponsors... Sponsors who do not only share our hearts and our dreams, but also through their funding make a real difference in so many children's lives.



***We wish you all a very special and blessed Christmas!***

Report compiled by:  
HOEP-team 2023

Date:  
4 December 2023



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**Get in touch with us:** [admin@hoep.org.za](mailto:admin@hoep.org.za)

**Support us in our mission of putting the young learners of our country in the starting blocks for successful school careers:**

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