

A Place to Grow and Flourish



EMYEZWENI
PRE-SCHOOL AND DAY CARE CENTRE

30 Years at Emyezweni!



2022 Annual Report

Encouraging a [pre-school] child means that one or more of the following critical life messages are coming through, either by word or by action: I believe in you, I trust you, I know you can handle this, You are listened to, You are cared for, You are important to me."

Barbara Coloroso

Chairmans Report

Dear Emyezweni community,

As we celebrate our 30th year, we reflect on the thousands of children who have passed through our doors, including the second generation of past pupils. The success of the school can be attributed to everyone's involvement, whether it be through prayer, partnership, volunteering, funding, or the provision of resources.

While 2020 and 2021 have been challenging for everyone, we remained committed to supporting our children through home-based learning. We also took this opportunity to reflect on and improve our organizational governance. I am thrilled to share that as of September 2021, Emyezweni Preschool NPC has become a registered company governed by a Board of Directors in accordance with the Companies Act No.71 of 2008 of South Africa. We have also applied for public benefit and Section 18a status with the South African Revenue Service.

This is an exciting milestone for us, and we are grateful for your unwavering support over the years. We are eager to embark on this new chapter in the life of Emyezweni Preschool and are excited for the many children who will pass through our doors in the years to come. We invite you to continue journeying with us as we serve the community of Lwandle.

Sincerely,
Charl du Plessis
Board Chairperson



Principals Report

As we enter our 30th year of operation, we at Emyezweni cannot help but reflect on the journey that brought us to this point. Founded in the winter of 1992, our preschool has seen many little learners pass through our doors, each eager to learn and be loved. We owe our success to the giants who came before us, people who poured their hearts and souls into the development and growth of our preschool. We will always be grateful for the seeds they planted here.

One of the greatest joys of our work is seeing the impact we have on our students, not just during their preschool years but throughout their lives. Many of our former learners, who are now parents themselves, are choosing to send their children to Emyezweni, seeking the same firm foundation and love that they experienced as children.

One such parent is Ncumisa Ntantiso, who is also one of our teachers. Her son Njongo received stationery and healthy meals, which brought her immense peace of mind as a single parent and part-time student. Ncumisa's fond memories of Emyezweni inspired her to become a teacher herself, despite facing many personal challenges. She has completed a Level 5 ECD Learnership and is currently pursuing her formal Diploma in Grade R at the Cape Peninsula Technical University (CPUT) on a part-time basis.

The last three years have been particularly challenging for us, as Covid-19 turned our world upside down in 2020 and 2021, and even lingered into 2022. But through it all, our love and care for our children, and our dedication to creating a better future for them, kept us going. We had to be even more resilient than before, and we are proud of the ways in which we adapted to the ever-changing circumstances. Unfortunately, we also lost one of our major funders during this period, making it even more difficult to keep our head above water.

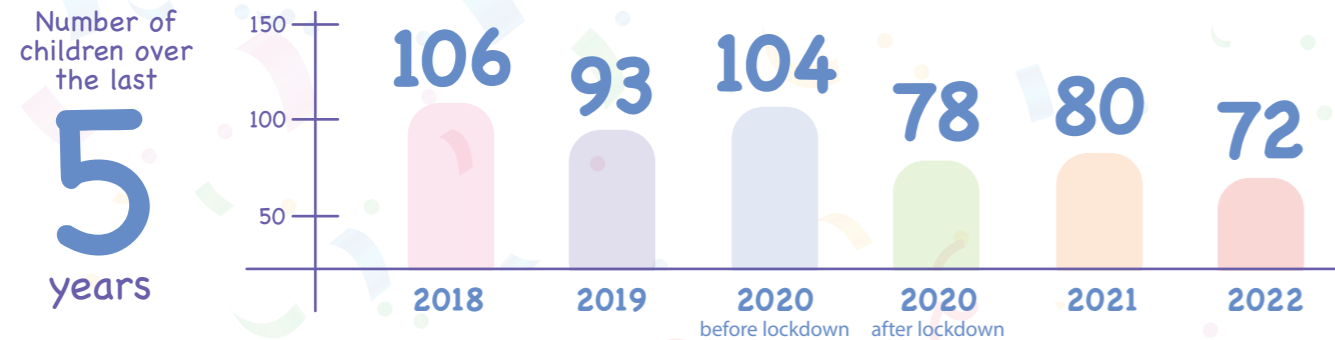
As we celebrate our 30th year, we want to express our deep gratitude to all those who have supported us over the years, whether through financial contributions, volunteer work, or simply spreading the word about our mission. We know that we could not have made it this far without your help. We remain committed to providing high-quality early childhood education to the children in our community, and we look forward to many more years of serving and loving our little ones.

Sincerely,
Daniela Fredericks



How COVID Impacted the School

Learner Attendance



Overview of School Fees

Showing impact of COVID-19 from 2020 onward

2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Expected Income: R276,700	Expected Income: R285,850	Expected Income: R277,050	Expected Income: R283,200
Actual Income: R222,959	Actual Income: R225,875	Actual Income: R70,845	Actual Income: R161,000
Deficit: R54,830	Deficit: R63,975	Deficit: R206,205	Deficit: R122,200
% Fees Paid: 80.58%	% Fees Paid: 79%	% Fees Paid: 25.57%	% Fees Paid: 56.9%

The impact of COVID-19 on our school has been significant. Our school has a registered capacity for 160 children, but we normally maintain a ceiling of 114. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, many pre-schoolers in the townships did not return to school, as unemployment rates had increased, and parents have had to care for their own pre-schoolers during the day. Only 75% of our learners returned to school, primarily due to parents losing their jobs. Despite being exempted from school fees for four months, payment of fees after the hard lockdown has been slow, adding to our financial struggles. Our Grade R learners were impacted the most, which leaves us with the sad dilemma that these pre-schoolers are missing out on a solid educational foundation to enter Grade 1. We support the idea from the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) of making Grade R attendance mandatory and believe it can help address this issue. The cost of additional PPE and cleaning products took a huge toll on our budget, and we received minimal financial support from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and no assistance from WCED. At the beginning of the hard lockdown, we created learning packs for all our Grade R learners and provided guidance to parents via class WhatsApp groups. We also shared resources from the DSD and the WCED to support at-home learning. To further enhance our learners' reading skills, we introduced Mali Bali, a free online learning/ reading resource, which includes indigenous languages. Despite the challenges we face, we remain committed to providing the best education possible for our learners. We are grateful for the support of our community and partners who have helped us navigate these difficult times. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our learners and ensure that they have the best possible start to their academic journey.

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition

Providing nutritious meals to our students has always been a top priority at our school. When the pandemic hit, we had to adapt our approach to ensure that our students continued to receive healthy meals. Initially, we cooked meals at the school and distributed them to neighbourhood children who were unable to come to school. However, due to logistical constraints, we were only able to do this for a month. We then went back to feeding the children at school only. Since March 2021, we have been fortunate enough to receive food support from the Carmen Stevens Foundation (CSF). They are the biggest source of funding for feeding our children two nourishing meals every day. The CSF provides us with fresh vegetables and a range of dried and canned foods. We are incredibly grateful for their support. We would also like to express our appreciation to The Pebbles Project for their generous support during the height of Covid-19 in March 2021. They provided us with meals for a short period, and we are most grateful for this kind gesture. At our school, we believe that proper nutrition is essential for our students' health and well-being. We will continue to work towards ensuring that all our students have access to healthy and nutritious meals, regardless of the challenges we may face.

Staff Wellness

At Emyezweni, we prioritize staff wellness and regularly show appreciation to our hardworking team. We celebrate staff birthdays with cake for everyone and give chocolates to the staff member whose birthday it is. COVID-19 greatly impacted our school, and we had to quickly adapt to keep our staff, children, and families safe. After the hard lockdown, our principal attended various COVID-19 online short courses (HWSETA) and shared her knowledge with the staff in in-house workshops. We also developed a COVID-19 policy and aligned our school logistics with it.

Lastly, COVID-19 taught us how precious life is and how fragile we are. We lost some of our beloved staff members, including "sweetie-Gogo," Mama Emet, and Tata Boko. Their presence and service enriched our lives at Emyezweni, and we miss them dearly. We honour their memories and strive to continue their legacy of providing excellent care and education to our children. Lalani kakuhle.



Mama Emet



Tata Boko

Safety

Security

Security and Window Safety Measures: Ensuring the safety of our students and resources is of utmost importance to us at Emyezweni. To this end, we have taken several security measures to protect our physical environment and prevent incidents of theft and vandalism. ADT is our trusted security service provider, and their presence has been instrumental in maintaining a safe school environment.

Window and Burglar Bars: In March 2021, we experienced a series of burglaries that targeted our frame-burglar bars, leaving us vulnerable to theft of valuable resources. In response, the Governing Body made the decision to invest in high-quality burglar bars with stringent specifications to secure the school. The total cost of R55 500.00 was already a stretch on our budget, and we are grateful to the generous sponsor who made a significant contribution to this project via Ukuthasa.

In addition to burglaries, we also faced the challenge of neighbourhood children throwing rocks through our cottage-style windows in January of this year, damaging 67 of them. Thanks to the support of a friend who provided us with the necessary materials and another who did the replacing, we were able to have them replaced.



Infrastructure

On October 5th, 2020, a big branch from a tree in our playground fell and damaged the roof of our Toddler class, making it necessary to replace it. Although we were able to fix the damage temporarily, we had to wait for the City of Cape Town (COCT), our lessor, to replace the roof.

We are grateful to report that this finally happened in June 2022, and we are especially relieved to have no more asbestos roofing at Emyezweni. We understand that having a safe and healthy learning environment is crucial for our children's well-being and development. Therefore, we took all the necessary measures to ensure that the temporary repairs were done properly, and that the children's daily routine was not disrupted.

We are thankful for the cooperation and support of our staff and parents during this challenging time. We would also like to express our gratitude to the COCT for their prompt action and dedication to the safety of our school. Their commitment to maintaining the infrastructure is vital in ensuring that our children have access to quality education and a secure environment.

At Emyezweni, we believe in continuous improvement and are always striving to make our school a better place for our learners. We will continue to monitor and maintain our facilities to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our children.

Building Maintenance: Emyezweni School has unfortunately faced several incidents of malicious damage and break-ins over the past two years, causing significant damage to our facilities. We have been working closely with our Ward Councillor to address this issue and encourage the community to protect our school and its resources.

Dining Hall: During the Covid-19 lockdown, we had to repurpose our dining hall to store resources that could not be used in the classroom due to social distancing protocols. Unfortunately, the space was targeted by thieves and suffered significant damage. We are currently in the process of restoring the space to its former state, which will require a substantial investment of funds. However, we remain optimistic that we will be able to restore the dining hall to a usable space and once again enjoy our meals there.

Outings

Outings are an integral part of our children's learning. As many of our children never get an opportunity to see life outside of our community, visits to the beach and aquarium are fun learning opportunities. We could not go to the aquarium this year because of the lockdown but as we approached the end of a challenging year in 2021, we wanted to do something special to show our appreciation for our staff and learners. Our Grade R learners were treated to their annual farewell outing to Gordons Bay Spur, where they enjoyed a delicious burger meal, fizzy drink, and ice cream. They had a blast playing on the beach and frolicking in the shallow water before heading back home in taxis.

Our annual Christmas party was held on December 10th and was filled with lots of fun activities, including a jumping castle, McDonald's meals, and cake. The party was a great way to celebrate the end of the year and to show our learners how much we care for them. As a token of our appreciation for our hard-working staff, we treated them to a lovely lunch at a local restaurant just before the end of the school year. After the meal, our teachers joined the young ones for some frolicking in the sea, which was a great way to relax and have some fun after a challenging year.

In addition, as a thank you, we provided our teachers with shopping vouchers. We believe that it's important to take the time to recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our staff and learners. Despite the challenges we faced in 2021, we are proud of what we achieved together.



Our Teachers

Teachers are the foundation of our school, and we believe that investing in their professional development and wellbeing is critical to the success of our learners. As Nelson Mandela said, "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

We currently employ 9 staff members and two full-time assistants and one shared assistant, as well as 1 cleaner ad-hoc as needed. With 72 learners currently enrolled, we are looking forward to recruiting additional staff members next year to return to our full capacity of more than 100 children.

We prioritize the continuous development of our staff through various training programs, including child protection training by Connect Network, a trauma-informed workshop, and Grade R and Grade RR cluster area workshops. Our staff regularly attend these sessions to stay informed and up to date on new developments. We are especially proud of Miss Noludwe Mkhunyana, our Gr RR teacher, who is enrolled for her 4th and final year of Diploma in Grade R at CPUT, and Miss Ncumisa Ntantiso, our Gr RR assistant, who is enrolled for her 3rd year in the same course. We hope that their achievements will inspire our other staff members to attain their formal qualifications in Early Childhood Development.

We understand that investing in our teachers is not just a financial commitment, but a commitment to the future of our learners. By providing our teachers with the necessary resources and support, we create an environment where our children can thrive both academically and emotionally.

Special Mention to Our Founding Teacher



Nomthandazo Margaret Shumi, also known as Mamma Thandi, has been an invaluable member of Emyezweni Pre-school for 30 years since its founding in 1992. She currently serves as a Grade R teacher, using her exceptional behaviour management skills to create a calm and happy environment for her students and their families.

"I am grateful for the positive changes that have occurred at the school over the years, including the installation of flush toilets and the provision of meals for the children. I love working with my Grade R class and am proud to be a qualified teacher, enkosi."
Mamma Thandi



Governance

New School Governing Body

We are excited to introduce you to our 2022 Governing Body, which is really an excellent link into the local community and the voice of our parent community. These members are: Ms. Vuya Daweti, Ms. Sindiswa Ntshongwana, Ms. Noluyanda Kati and Ms. Sisanda Bolo and Noludwe Mkhunyana, who are our two teacher representatives. The School Governing Body, in collaboration with the Board of Directors, will assist us into a brighter future at Emyezweni.



New Board and Registration

Initially the school was set up as a 'ministry' of Helderberg Christian Church (now Urban Voice), and later needed to register as a partial care facility with the Department of Social Development, which is a requirement of South Africa's Children's Act. To do this a local entity called HelderCare Non-Profit Company was provisionally established to provide compliance and financial oversight to the various charities set up through the church. Since inception the Board of HelderCare all agreed that each of the entities would eventually register independently.

In 2021 Emyezweni Preschool was registered as a Non-Profit Company and started operating independently. This means that a dedicated Board now provides governance and oversight to the school ensuring that it fulfils its mission to the children of Lwandle. The Board also ensures that the school meets its regulatory responsibilities and files appropriate paperwork with government agencies and keeps promises to the public, donors, and beneficiaries. They ensure that the school has the necessary resources to run efficiently. The day-to-day activities of the school remain under the leadership of our very competent school Principal, Daniela Fredericks, and the school's parent committee.

Jonathan George
Finance



Sean Robinson
Sustainability



Marion du Plessis
Secretary



Charl du Plessis
Board Chair



Daniela Fredericks
Principal



Donors and Supporters

We are grateful for the generous support of our donors who provide the necessary funding for us to continue our mission and make a positive impact in our community.

Donors

Anonymous and private donors
Cape Agricultural products
DSD and DBE, who paid full salaries throughout covid
Oostenburg Rotary Club

Purpleline Plastics
Ukuthasa Charity
Urban Voice Church

Special Mention to Long-Time Supporter, Ukuthasa Charity

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support from Ukuthasa over the years. The support we have received has been a beacon of hope and a true testament to the power of community.

Since 1996, Ukuthasa has supported Emyezweni Preschool in various ways and has helped us grow and thrive. Highly qualified volunteers sent from the UK provided valuable support to expand our preschool. In 2001, a volunteer team came and decorated and upgraded our school building, installing new toilets and wash basins, partitioning rooms to create more classroom space, and painting inside and out. We were thrilled with the outcome and so grateful for their generosity. Individual sponsorship of our learners has also been invaluable.

Although the worldwide recession has meant that sponsorship has not grown as much as is needed, the continued provision of funds to the Grade R classes has made a significant impact on our students' lives. We appreciate the relationships that have been built over the years, and it is truly a joy to have the support of our UK friends who make a difference in the lives of our learners.

Gifts in Kind

We gratefully received R100,000 worth of in-kind donations in the form of food as well as online COVID-19 and mental health courses, generously provided by the Carmen Stevens Foundation, Pebbles Project, and the Foundation for Professional Development.

Affiliations

Emyezweni Pre-school is proud to be affiliated with various organizations that share our values and support our mission to provide quality education to young children.

Connect Network
Grassroots Educare trust

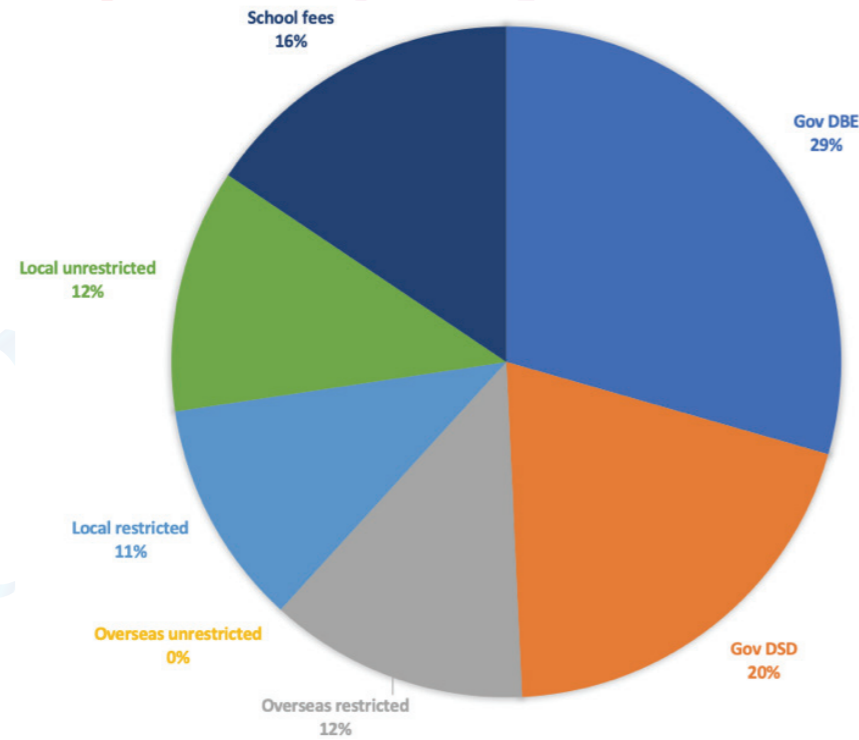
Helderberg Academy
Masikhule

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!

Finances

Income

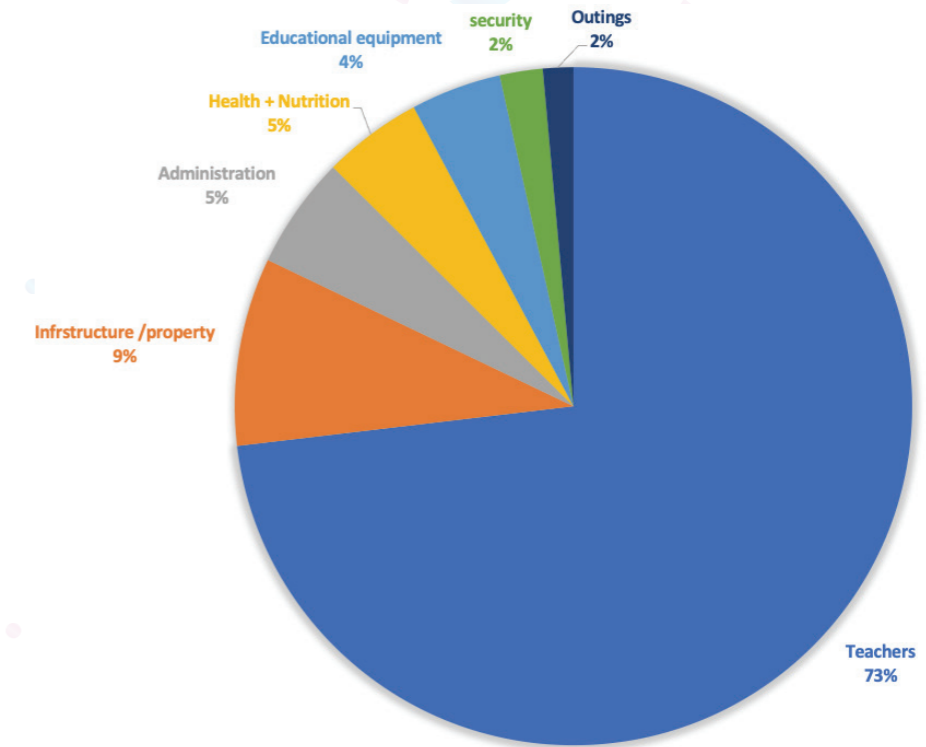
2022: R1,232 556.00
2021: R934 777.00



Half of our income came from government; this being directly related to the number of children in the school, 16% was raised by the parents through school fees. Together this 65% revenue stream shows good progress towards the school's sustainability.

Expenses

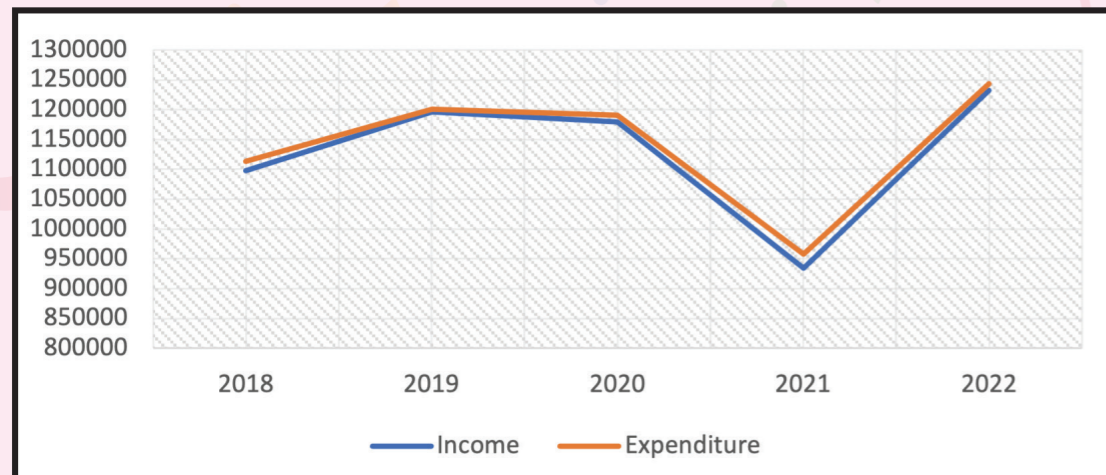
2022: R1,243 686.00
2021: R957 850.00



Emyezweni Preschool's strategy is to safely equip young children in their foundation years. This is clearly reflected above, with 73% of the budget being invested in teachers who are the most critical resource for facilitation of learning. 9% was spent on a safe spatial environment and an extra 2% on security, making 84% of our budget allocated to the enabling environment for children to thrive and learn during the school hours. Although the school was closed for the significant periods 2021 due to the COVID pandemic, these costs are fixed. The 4% allocation to educational equipment was reduced this year due to the pandemic lockdown, however we did provide materials to the children in their homes during this time. 5% health and nutrition remained stable compared to the previous years. Although we ran food supply for children in the neighbourhood, it was not the usual daily food given during school time and thus the nutrition cost reduced. However, we had to take up PPE costs and staff mental health support during this period. Though the management of our finances during this period has taken the post pandemic period into account, we had to keep the school maintained and the retain our staff, as well as support children in the community around the school.

5-year Overview

This chart reveals Emyezweni Preschool's dedication and commitment to providing the children of Lwandle with a good foundation for their educational journey. It shows the adaptability of the board and staff to a changing funding environment, despite the financial impact of the COVID 19 pandemic from 2020-2022. We also lost some donor funding.





EMYEZWENI
PRE-SCHOOL AND DAY CARE CENTRE

**“Ndithembise ukuba uya kuhlala ukhumbula:
unesibindi kunokuba ukholelwa kwaye unamandla kunokuba
ubonakala kwaye uhlakaniphile kunokuba ucinga”**

**“Promise me you’ll always remember:
you are braver than you believe and
stronger than you seem and
smarter than you think.”**

Winnie the Pooh, A.A Milne

**Registered as: Emyezweni Preschool Non-Profit Company 2021/857215/08 NPC
NPO: 279-195 • B-BBEE Level 1 contributor • PBO: 9337011234 (Section 18A Status)
Registered Partial Care Facility**

Bank Details

Account Name: Emyezweni Preschool NPC • Account No: 62915329123 • Bank: First National Bank
Branch Code: 255355 • Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ • Reference: Your Company/Name

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Layout and design by Melissa Kidd.