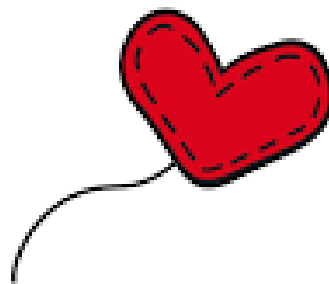




Young Children, Our Future

&



UTHANDO
PROJECT INC.

DOLLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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TREE's vision is to ensure that young children develop to their full potential in line with their rights and needs and as an organisation we are proud for having the ability to achieve this in our areas of operation. TREE believes in a holistic approach to child development which is achieved/supported through TREE's Essential Package as pictured below.



TREE's Essential Package of Services forms the foundation of the programme's strategic thrust that aims to ensure the holistic development of children. This package of essential services has been a vehicle for cost-effective and efficient delivery that has maximised opportunities for early childhood interventions. The intended impact is to promote dramatic increased access to quality developmental opportunities for children aged 0-4 years.

We also ensure that we provide a holistic approach through the essential package of services (illustrated in the above diagram) to promote and support the development of young children through:

- Correct Water and sanitation practices
- Social security; access of social grants, disability grants and caregiver dependency grants
- Access to documentation; Birth registration, Road to Health Cards
- Access to Health services, immunizations
- Opportunities for children to learn together in structured programmes in preparation for formal schooling.

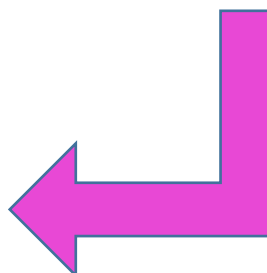


A class of Grade RR learners receiving their dolls that come with clothing and soft balls. Each learner is engaging with their doll in their unique way, another is hugging, another is undressing and so on. This is a wonderful show of emotional development.



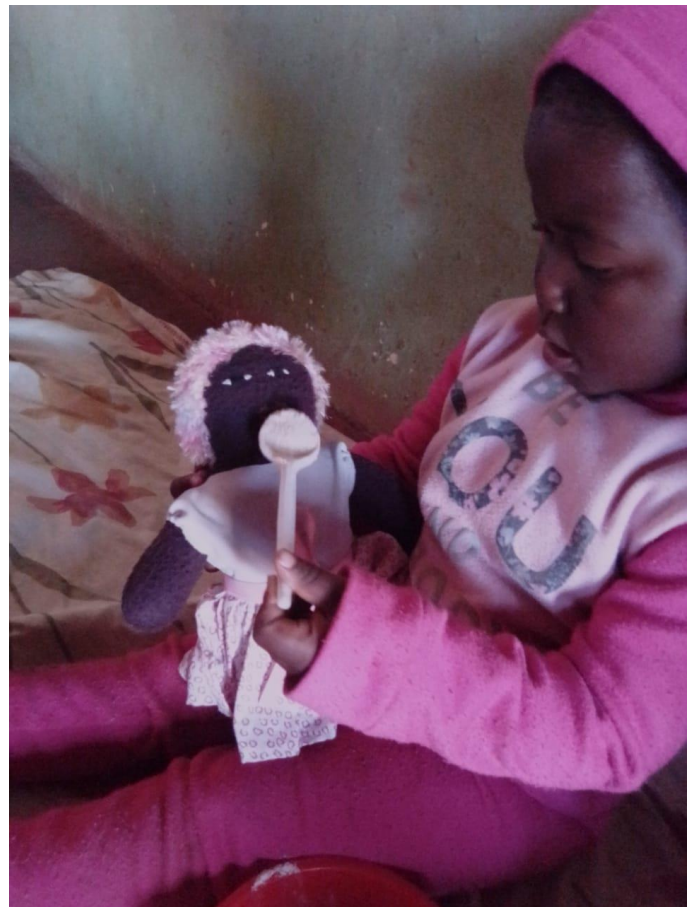
These 2 young children have expressed that these dolls are their students and they are teachers, they are acting out the home visiting programme that they usually participate in. this role playing is showing how well they observe their family play facilitators when they interact with them in their home.

This young girl is showing the process of getting ready for bed in the evenings, she gives her doll a bath, then dresses her and wraps her in a blanket and finally they go to bed.





This Uthando doll is receiving a warm and nutritious meal from a young girl who understands the importance of nutritious meals in children.



Playing with dolls develops nurturing skills, language skills, cognitive skills and fine motor skills. Dolls help children understand the world around them, by re-enacting what they have seen being done to their siblings and themselves it develops a sense of empathy in the children, developing their emotional and social skills. When engaging in pretend play, children speak to their dolls, they imagine different scenarios in their interactions and through imagination and speaking they are being creative and develop their cognitive and language skills. Children love to pretend to bath, dress, feed their dolls and so on and these actions contribute to their physical fine motor skills development. Playing with dolls allows for the holistic development of the child.

Conclusion

We appreciate your generous contribution of Uthando Dolls towards the noble cause of enabling early learning environment. With a brand like Uthando Dolls, associating with us we are able to accomplish the vision and the goal of TREE existence.





ANNUAL REPORT TO UTHANDO PROJECT INC.



We are overwhelmed by the artistry, the detail, and the love embodied in these dolls, which play such a big part in our programmes.



Dear Wonderful Members of Uthando Dolls Inc,

Congratulations on another year of generous and creative doll making! Every time I have the privilege of opening a bag of dolls, I am completely overwhelmed by the artistry, the detail the hard work and the love embodied in these dolls. Thank you, thank you from the bottom of our grateful hearts!



I think this is my favourite photo of the year. My colleagues just came across this little creche by chance. There must be hundreds of others like this, dotted around the rural areas. You can see what a poor little creche it is. They had never received dolls before. I would love to know what the boy in the blue hoody was saying about his doll with the pink hair. The other children look quite cross with him. The teacher was so delighted!

This year we have initiated a new programme whereby we are equipping the ladies in our Adult Groups to run Playgroups with their grandchildren and neighbour's children. The adults have been wonderfully enthusiastic about reading picture books to their toddlers and even learning to recognize and say the vowel sounds, which is exactly the help that the children need. Here they are helping the toddlers dress and undress their dolls – an important small muscle development activity.





This photo captures for me the intense doll play that happens in all our “nests”, and how the facilitators use the dolls to bring alive a theme such as My Home/My Family.

Below we see pure excitement at being given their very own doll.



Our Director Pierre took dolls to the village of Barra in Mozambique. It is far North in the tropics where people build reed houses and live very much off the land and the sea.

Can you see the love in the eyes of the children as they look at the dolls?



His wife told me that the boys went crazy over the balls too.





My highlight is to explain to you how we are using Dolls in our exciting new isiZulu Reach Out to Read programme.

We have told you before how the children take their dolls on their laps and 'escape' with the doll into the story.

In Grade R, when learning isiZulu, the main phonic focus is on the vowel sounds. The methodology we are promoting aims to present the vowels in as many different ways as possible in order to reinforce the recognition of the

vowel sounds, before the consonants are introduced. Games and fun activities are encouraged at all times.

Here, each doll is holding a vowel card. The children select picture cards starting with the vowel sounds. They have to identify the picture, name it and give some information about that picture thus developing vocab, language, listening skills, skills of observation, thinking skills, general knowledge etc



Each child then has a turn to place their card on the floor in front of the doll holding the corresponding letter.

The Grade 1's do the same activity but we add word building and phoneme manipulation in order to challenge their reading skills.

If you look closely at the table in the picture of the creche on the first page, you will see how much that little school needs our intervention. They are teaching pre-schoolers the letter A instead of focusing on the letter *sounds* (a, e, i, o, u) which are the main route to reading!

We have had a very full year consolidating what we started during Covid and introducing new outreaches that we believe will enhance the quality of life in our communities. We thank you again for partnering with us, and for continuing to be such a source of encouragement and joy!

With love and good wishes for the new year ahead.
Jill Frow on behalf of

PIERRE HORN

Director

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