

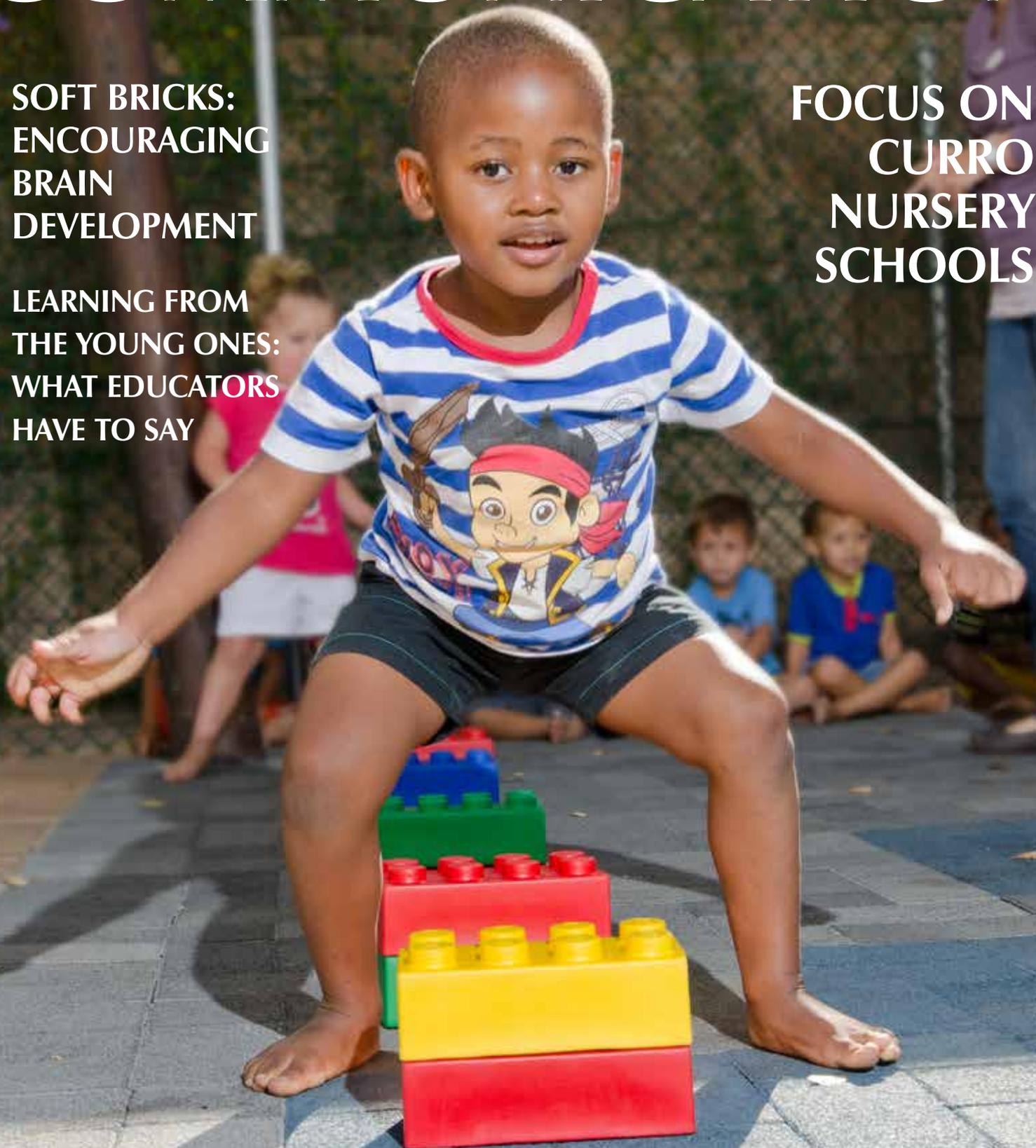
# CURRICULUM COMMUNICATION

ISSUE 1  
2015

SOFT BRICKS:  
ENCOURAGING  
BRAIN  
DEVELOPMENT

LEARNING FROM  
THE YOUNG ONES:  
WHAT EDUCATORS  
HAVE TO SAY

FOCUS ON  
CURRO  
NURSERY  
SCHOOLS



**CURRO**

## MESSAGE FROM ALTA GREEFF

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### CHILD-FRIENDLY, SECURE AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT

Curro nursery schools provide a unique, child-friendly, stimulating environment that fosters creativity, positive discipline and the building of rewarding relationships.

At Curro nursery schools we strive to optimise learning in young brains and to capitalise on the huge potential children have for learning in the first few years of life. The brain develops from about 25% at birth to about 80% of the size of an adult's brain by the age of three.

Curro has designed a nursery school curriculum for learners from three months to five years old on the basis of the theories of teaching and learning and the science behind how learners develop.

**Fact no. 1:** The brain is organised into two hemispheres, each dealing with a different set of tasks and skills. Our curriculum provides for both right-brain intuitive, holistic learning and left-brain logical and structured learning.

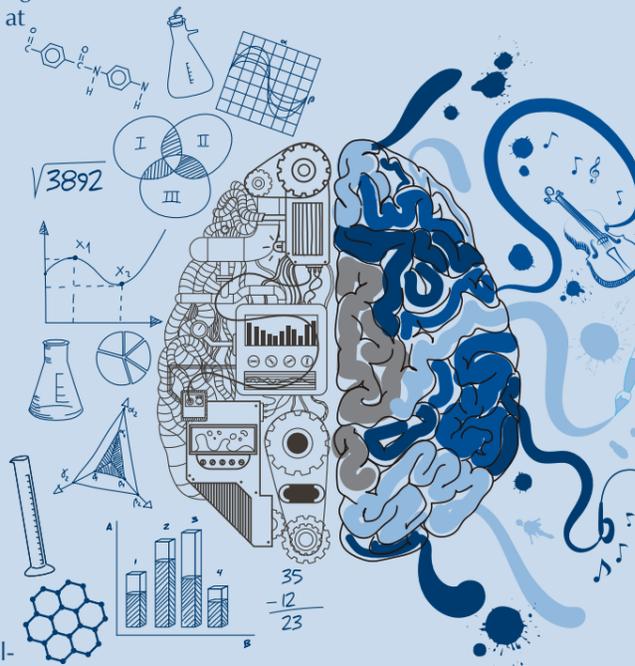
**Fact no. 2:** Our curriculum is based on the fact that learners have multiple intelligences (Professor Howard Gardner, Harvard University) and therefore receive, process and express their knowledge and skills in different ways. These intelligences include verbal-linguistic, logical-mathematical, visual-spatial, bodily-kinaesthetic, musical, inter- and intrapersonal and naturalist intelligences.

**Fact no. 3:** Young children learn through play, practical real-life experiences, inquiry and exploration. They construct new knowledge and skills and expand their existing understanding through the integrated programme Curro offers.

The Curro nursery school curriculum evolved from the above facts and is structured around six learning areas: language development, physical development, personal and social development, arts development, mathematical development and science and technology development.

*Alta Greeff*

Head: CCEE



## DEVELOPING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS WITH LEGO SOFT BRICKS

At Curro nursery schools Lego Soft Bricks are an integral part of our learning programmes.

Research has shown that there is a strong correlation between learners' early mathematical experiences and scholastic achievement in high school (Wolfgang, Stannard & Jones, 2001). During block play a learner is exposed to a variety of mathematical experiences, e.g. comparing, classification, counting, measurement, and ordering, and is made aware of spatial relationships, size, shapes, quantity and symmetry.

The use of Soft Bricks in all six learning areas promotes integrated learning. It also provides the learners with opportunities to explore, be creative, use imagination,

experiment, solve problems, make discoveries, collaborate and communicate their ideas to peers.

Educators are trained to use Lego Soft Bricks for the development of the above 21st century skills, to encourage learners to think critically and to think about their thinking (meta-cognition).

Block play is such a fun activity for all learners that learners hardly need additional motivation to engage in mathematical activities, or to practise fine and gross motor, visual, perceptual and language skills!



# CURRO CASTLE SCHOOLS

## What we do at Curro Castles

1. Curro Castle nursery schools accommodate learners from three months to five years old.
2. Our schools are a home away from home for little ones where they are cherished, loved and prepared for the outside world by qualified educators.
3. Through detailed fantasy surroundings, the magic of childhood, the joy of being young and the unbridled innocence of youth is kept alive. A Story Queen, Rapunzel's Books, a huge variety of extra-mural activities and fun-filled holiday programmes are just a few of the carefully-designed components geared to stimulate enquiring minds.
4. The children enjoy well-balanced and wholesome meals and snacks that are freshly prepared by the Castle chefs in the Hansel and Gretel Kitchens.



CURRO CASTLE  
BRACKENFELL



CURRO CASTLE  
GEORGE



CURRO KIDS  
EMBURY





**CURRO KIDS  
HAZELDEAN**



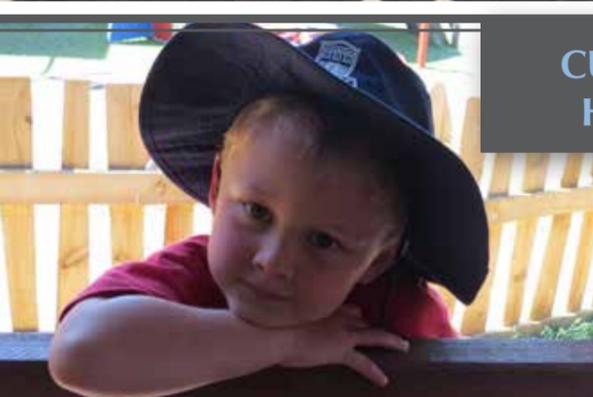
**CURRO KIDS  
NELSPRUIT**



**CURRO CASTLE  
KRUGERSDORP**



**CURRO CASTLE  
SECUNDA**



**CURRO KIDS  
HILLCREST**





# WHAT OUR EDUCATORS HAVE TO SAY

Curro Rosen Castle's mission is to guide our very youngest learners towards personal excellence by providing the appropriate education in partnership with their parents. At Curro Rosen Castle, like throughout Curro, we encourage young minds to be extraordinary by using the most advanced and innovative teaching techniques available.

We spoke to three of the dedicated and important educators from the original Curro Rosen Castle (in Cape Town's northern suburbs), about the roles they play in our learners' journey.

## ANNELINE MEINTJIES

Anneline Meintjies teaches the Turquoise Stars, who are all between four and five years old, and she has spent seven wonderful years launching over a hundred of these little learners on their educational path. She believes that this role is more of a calling than a profession, and she loves moulding young minds and watching them grow and develop – she feels privileged to do this every day!

Her advice to parents is to appreciate each moment with their children because they grow up so quickly. Parents should not compare their children to others – they are all unique individuals and need to be treated as such.

She believes that learners should be taught to respect and love their peers and believe in themselves, and that the most important thing you can teach children is never to underestimate their own capabilities.

The most important lesson she takes away from her job is that children are God's greatest gift to us – they are to be treated with love and respect, and the simple little things they do should never be taken for granted.



## MERIDIAN PINEHURST KIDS



## DAISY MOLEME

Assistant Daisy Moleme has our 18 to 24-month-old learners under her wing because she loves being with children and has a passion for being around them. She chose this profession so that she can teach children how important an education is. One of her most memorable stories is that one of the parents told her how valuable and helpful the assistants are. The most beautiful thing one of her charges said to her was 'Mamma', and with her dedication, her workplace is more than just that, it's her second home!



## ISONETTE NELL

Isonette Nell has been the receptionist at Curro Rosen Castle for a year and tells us that she is passionate about people and enjoys supporting and encouraging them. She chose this role as she believes that you have a lifetime to work, but that children are young only once, and she loves helping to create the warm, friendly and loving atmosphere at Curro Rosen Castle.

Her philosophy to pass on to these precious learners is 'live in the moment!'. The warm hugs from the children have special meaning to her, as she has never enjoyed her work as much as she does now.



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