



# WHAT'S NEW ON THE BRIDGE KNOWLEDGE HUB THIS MONTH?

**ECD.....2-3**

**Teacher development.....3-5**

**Learner Support.....5**

**Cross-Cutting.....6**



## Presentations

<https://bit.ly/2yxVXTP>

Dr Marc Aguirre, who is the Director of Hope Worldwide South Africa, showcased their ECD parenting programme that focuses on building the self-esteem and confidence of caregivers-who are ultimately a child's first teacher. Hope Worldwide believes that affordable and high quality programmes targeted at the caregiver are critical for a child's physical, emotional and cognitive development.

<https://bit.ly/2PWYGA>

Chantell Witten offered the ECD CoP members powerful facts around the detrimental affects of the lack of good nutrition, particularly within the first 1000 days. Through the presentation, CoP members learned that early stimulation efforts become meaningless when children become stunted due to lack of good nutrition. Her presentation also outlined the importance of breastfeeding and how it can play a role in reducing stunting. She also encouraged the ECD community to play a role in centralising Nutrition within the ECD agenda through their access to children and caregivers.

<https://bit.ly/2CFeBvN>

<https://bit.ly/2ArlfmJ>

Sheila Drew, who represents the BRIDGE ECD CoP on the DSD ECD Intersectoral Steering Committee and the Intersectoral forum provided an update of the last meetings. Sheila also provided an update on PIECCE, which is a multi-stakeholder project that aims to contribute towards the professionalization of the ECD sector by increasing access for ECD practitioners to quality birth-4 programmes in Higher Education (HE) in South Africa.

## Meeting Highlights

<https://bit.ly/2NN55wH>

The minutes of the most recent KZN ECD CoP reveals some interesting presentations and conversations. Singakwenza presented on their toy-making model, there was a presentation on the Asia Pacific Regional Network for early Childhood (ARNEC) and updates on key events and issues on the ground were shared.

<https://bit.ly/2PSZrdr>

The ECD CoP that was held on the 23rd October 2018 was an opportunity for the National ECD CoP to tackle the issue of Nutrition. The consistent message from our esteemed speakers was clear: The ECD community has the potential to play a central role in the promotion and adoption of good nutrition practices, especially in the first 1000 days. Our showcase, which focused on a parent support programme in a non-centre based intervention, showed the National ECD CoP that the parent is the first teacher of a child and that if a parent is capacitated to practice positive parenting, a child's development outcomes are more likely to be positive. Meeting highlights of this meeting can be found on this link.

<https://bit.ly/2OVrpkP>

A fruitful meeting between the NECDA board members and the Department of Higher Education (DHET) was held on the 31st August 2018. The meeting was held to discuss the limitations brought on by the Skills Development Act as far as the registration of private training institutions that are not recognised under the Companies Act 2008 is concerned. Many of the ECD resource training organisations (RTOs) exist as non-profit organisations (NPOs) operating within the NPO Act and would have therefore been unable to register with the DHET. Essentially, NPOs that are training providers will now be able to register with DHET which is a great achievement for the sector. More details are contained in the summarised notes of the meeting.



## Teacher Development

### Presentations

<https://bit.ly/2zv67Fv>

A short presentation on who BRIDGE is, what we do and how we achieve our goals. Included are six useful tools.

<http://bit.ly/2PfftyK>

This presentation by help2read at the Teacher Development Community of Practice includes information on the following:

- Why children struggle to read
- What children need in order to learn
- Some practical solutions for your class/school

## Meeting Highlights

<https://bit.ly/2QvAvFy>

Alarming statistics and reports on the state of basic education point to the need for far more aggressive management of teacher training and classroom efficiency. Initial Teacher Education often comes under fire for not preparing students to face a real classroom context. An Initial Teacher Education CoP has therefore started to enable various universities and other organisations working in initial teacher education, to work together to address some of these issues.

These meeting highlights summarize the discussions that took place at the first ITE CoP.

<http://bit.ly/2OQcAnV>

This CoP meeting was a re-imagining of the SAESC as members explored how this community can become more adaptive to our current context. Members also explored how they might expand the vision of the community and think about its work in broader terms, and develop a plan of action for the CoP going forward.

<http://bit.ly/2QFCyap>

Literacy remains an enduring challenge in the South Africa's education system. These highlights include a presentation by Help2Read on developing a culture of reading in our schools. It also includes the following:

- WHY DO CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO READ?
- WHAT DO CHILDREN NEED IN ORDER TO LEARN?
- WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR SCHOOL & CLASSROOM?

## Tools & Resources

<https://bit.ly/2Qwcka2>

The following resource is derived from a presentation by Shaneeka Favors and Boitumelo Khunou, participants of the GTI Axis Summit 2018. Here, you will find a brief discussion on 'culturally responsive teaching' and tools and tips to help you become a more culturally responsive teacher.

<https://bit.ly/2Rr4qzP>

The following resource is derived from a presentation by Jabulani Thethwayo and Quinton Dirks, participants of the GTI Axis Summit 2018. Here, you will find a brief discussion on learner-centred classrooms, and tips to help you create a learning environment that puts your learners at the centre.

<https://bit.ly/2DXobw8>

The following resource is derived from a presentation by James Malope to the participants of the 2018 GTI Axis Summit. Here you will find a brief discussion on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as well as tips on how to increase collaboration in the classroom, plan an inclusive classroom environment and how to make the shift from traditional teaching (which is teaching centred) to a learner centred approach

## Learner Support



## Tools & Resources

<https://bit.ly/2PyZE6f>

The Mathematics Teaching and Learning Framework for South Africa: Teaching Mathematics for Understanding, was developed for the Department of Basic Education. It presents new thinking about mathematics teaching, learning and assessments to help teachers implement the CAPS curriculum in ways that support understanding.

## Presentations

This visual essay compiled by Maths & Science CoP facilitator Peter Glover takes a lighthearted look at the use of humour, especially absurdity, to identify scientific concepts and draw attention to what is important about those concepts.



## Cross- Cutting Themes

### Meeting Highlights

<https://bit.ly/2pXXfCC>

Meeting highlights for the first Early Grade Reading CoP held on the 25th September 2018. The EGR CoP is a space for organisations working in the Literacy Development Space to share knowledge and working practice.

### Presentations

<https://bit.ly/2OMLrx4>

This presentation focused on the neuroscience of learning to read. Special attention will be given to reading in different types of languages, the foundational skills of learning to read, the phases of learning to read, the auditory and visual pathways in the brain, how reading changes the brain pathways and the importance of phonics in learning to read.

<https://bit.ly/2DJNjN8>

Presentation by Pinky Busika from the Gauteng Department of Education sharing with the Early Grade Reading CoP the status of literacy in the country, as well as the different strategies implemented by GDE to boost literacy rates.