

Recycle Swop Shop - October 2003

Thank you for your patience with me in my tardiness of contact. So much has been happening all around...

We now have 265 children registered in our data file (no duplicate cards either!). I admire Bulelwa's skill at keeping all of the record keeping for the children straight, a miracle of grand proportions! On average, of 50 children attend each Wednesday. Routines have been going very well.



September marks the resumption of our educational and informational outings offered once a month to children who attend regularly and our loyal Helpers. Our trip to the annual Wild Flower Show held at our local Fernkloof Nature Reserve was a resounding success. Sixteen children enjoyed the beautiful arrangements done by the local botanical society. The children also took a hike through the reserve to the interpretive centre where cookies and cool drink were enjoyed by all. Bulelwa did an excellent job interpreting for the children. They absorbed the information and visual feast like sponges. More outings to the reserve are a must!



To date the children have collected 5791 kg since our beginnings in February. Recently, our weights have dropped yet the volumes increase. Children are bringing fewer tins and bottles and more plastic bottles (there are a few theories as to why) .



Next month we plan to take as many children as possible to visit the recycle centre for an educational workshop. Our program is growing to include: more educational opportunity, early intervention, as well as focus on civic responsibility and early work training. Improved health/hygiene and the obvious environmental benefits continue

The mothers of very young children have a desire to join the project. It has been decided to prepare "baby paks" with any related supplies that are donated.

This month, 2 teachers from nearby crèches brought collectables. I have encouraged them to give us a wish list. Through the generosity of locals, we have been able to share: paper, pencils, soap, toilet tissue, balloons, crayons, chalk and even staplers (which have been most appreciated!) Clothing and hygienic items continue to be the most popular items in the Swop Shop and conversations have been overheard considering the best value in taking soap or a toothbrush. Our supply of toothbrushes has come to an end, expensive items in the South African economy...

Thank you always to HouMoed for giving our project a home and Walker Bay Recycling for loyally collecting our collectables.

The PreSchool of Yomelelani which opened in July serves between 20 and 25 children. It is going extremely well. But that is another story. We hope to find a way to bring you an update of that project soon.

Thanks again to all of you from: South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Holland, Canada, USA, England, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland for your support. Without you, what we are doing would not be possible.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or queries - please do not hesitate to let us know. 'Til next time....

Love from,
Bulelwa, the children & Marilyn :-)