

From the Director

Building South Africa's future scientists from the ground up

In her recent Science Month address, Basic Education Minister Siviwe Gwarube asked a fundamental question: "Where does a scientist begin?" Her answer: not in a university laboratory, but in the primary school classroom.



Basic Education Minister Siviwe Gwarube

The Minister highlighted South Africa's desperate need for future scientists, engineers, and specialists. These key economic drivers must be nurtured early, in our Foundation Phase classrooms.

These vital skills take root when children first learn to read for meaning, develop core numeracy, build critical thinking skills, and grow their natural curiosity about how and why the world works. Weak early foundations close doors long before learners reach high school. Children are ready and waiting to develop these abilities, but they need passionate, enthusiastic teachers to guide them and keep the doors open for choosing STEM subjects in higher grades.

This aligns directly with the mission of the Primary Science Programme (PSP). By focusing on Grades R to 7, the PSP strengthens early STEM education through:

- **Teacher Mentorship:** Equipping primary educators with hands-on strategies and classroom support to build strong mathematics and science skills.
- **Equal Opportunity:** Providing under-resourced schools with practical learning resources to ensure every learner could experience real scientific inquiry.
- **Integrated Literacy:** Blending language comprehension with scientific problem-solving to deepen understanding through MTbBE.

Before learners can tackle high school STEM subjects, they must build confidence in the early years. Together with our dedicated educators, the PSP is nourishing the deep roots needed for South Africa's tomorrow to thrive.

Wishing all schools, teachers, learners, and parents an inspiring and successful Term 3.

Zorina

Dr. Zorina Dharsey

REACH THUS FAR

Courses 124 ★ Teachers 2 455 ★ Schools 566

Teachers visited on site 380

Learners benefitting directly 11 755

PSP solid contribution to the national vision

Maths and Science 'Wonder Moments'

Making Science and Mathematics meaningful, connected and exciting

PSP Science and Mathematics Projects continue to focus on supporting teachers to create *Wonder Moments* in their classrooms – that spark curiosity, encourage learners to ask questions and help them experience Science and Mathematics in new and interesting ways.

We encourage teachers to move beyond worksheets and procedures, to create activities and opportunities for learners to wonder, explore, talk, investigate and make meaningful connections.

A key focus is connecting Science and Mathematics to the real world. Mathematics is all around us - in nature, at home, in the playground, in shops and in our communities. When learners begin to recognise these connections, Science and Mathematics becomes a springboard for further development of a growing mindset for the skills we desperately need in the country.



Shared writing to describe their activity



Acting out an energy activity



Testing the strength of different materials



Making the number 5



Sequencing an energy chain in Grade 4

Language in Mathematics and Science

Recognising the important role of Language in Science and Mathematics, our work encourages learners to talk, explain their thinking, write and describe what they notice and share their strategies. We help them develop both scientific and mathematical thinking and communicating this in their own language confidently.

Through teacher development, classroom support, practical resources and mentorship, we are working to build teachers' confidence to create these *Wonder Moments* every day.

ALL PSP COURSES ARE SACE-ACCREDITED



Booking is essential for all courses
See programme for booking links or WhatsApp 071 290 2804



Celebrating National Science week

03
Aug 2026

Monday



Life Skills Foundation Phase Course Grades R & 1 (Afrikaans)

2pm - 4pm

04
Aug 2026

Tuesday



Life Skills Foundation Phase Grades 2 & 3 (Afrikaans)

2pm - 4pm



Whales - how sound and AI are solving Africa's greatest marine mystery

3pm - 4pm

05
Aug 2026

Wednesday



Environmental Science in the Overberg Agulhas National Park

3pm - 4pm



Bees are important citizens of the world

4pm - 5pm



Assessment for learning in Foundation Phase Science: Making children's thinking visible.

2pm - 3pm

06
Aug 2026

Thursday



Science outdoors and Environmental Science

2pm - 4pm



Indigenous knowledge systems

4pm - 5pm

Join here - <https://t.qrip.net/40akt>

SCAN ME



PSP believes...



Young children learn exceedingly quickly, which makes early childhood the time to spark curiosity and build core skills. Waiting too long may create learning gaps that are difficult to make up later.

Tips for teachers & parents

- Explore the world with your young children, explain things to them and engage in constant conversation with them, to grow their language with confidence.
- Spend time with your young children and understand the importance of the early years for children.

Swiss Re contribution for Mandela Day

Mandela Day – a partnership in action: Bringing practical Maths & Science to life!

A massive, heartfelt thank you to the incredible team at Swiss Re Africa Limited for choosing the PSP for their Mandela Day contribution.

The energetic and dedicated Swiss Re staff rolled up their sleeves and hand-packed over 80 practical Mathematics packs and over 80 Science packs!

This will make a massive impact when we distribute these packs directly to the novice teachers in our PSP Mentorship Project.

For a beginner teacher, having access to physical, practical learning resources is a gamechanger to keep learners engaged and excited about STEM.

Thank you, Swiss Re Africa, for your generosity. You have truly embodied the spirit of Mandela Day!



Donations of Maths and Science packs

Look out for – PSP TIPS – our new series available soon on Facebook

MEET TEACHER TRACY

Teacher Tracy knows the realities of the classroom and shares simple ideas that makes a BIG difference

Teacher Tips
Small ideas, big impact.

1 EPISODE 3: Asking questions in different ways

What is $5 + 5$?

10! 10! 10!

Learners give the answer... But do we know *how* they think?

2 TRY ASKING: HOW COULD YOU MAKE 10?

There are many ways!

$5 + 5$ $6 + 4$
 $7 + 3$ $8 + 2$

Now we're discovering how learners think!

FOUNDATION PHASE LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP

Practical Ideas Engaging Activities Classroom-Ready Resources



DATE: 19 September 2026



TIME: 08:30–11:30



VENUE: Searidge Primary School, Tafelsig



COST: R200 per participant



EVERY PARTICIPANT RECEIVES A FREE LIFE SKILLS BOOK!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES ON REGISTRATION DETAILS

PSP Social Media

Follow us on social media for links to free courses, updates, resources and PSP news



PRIMARY SCIENCE PROGRAMME (PSP)

5 Palatine Road, Plumstead 7800, Cape Town

Website: www.psp.org.za | Email: info@psp.org.za | Tel: +27 (0)21 691 9039

