

Welcome to our
back-to-school edition of
SmartStart Fundanathi:

- A parent shares a **heart-warming story** about her son's early learning practitioner.
- We show you the **four building blocks** for **successful early learning**.
- You'll also find a **fun activity** for you and your child, using items you will have at home!
- We share some **top tips** on how to include **story sharing in everyday life**.
- And give you a **look into the life of one of our amazing SmartStart practitioners**.



SmartStart is excited to welcome all parents and their children back to early learning sites around the country for another year filled with fun and learning!

Please make sure your child is re-registered for 2023. Pass on the message to other parents to also register their children at early learning sites, such as the SmartStart ones. Remember to find out more about how you can be part of the quarterly, fun-filled Family Days at your child's pre-school. Let's together give South African children the power to succeed.

Wishing you all a successful 2023!

A SmartStart parent story

"My son would come home from school and tell me all kinds of stories about his day, but I wouldn't always believe him. He would tell me how his teacher dances, and plays games with them, and I thought it was all in his imagination. That was until I went to the school and saw it for myself. His teacher sings with the children, gets on the floor to play with them, and even dances with them. She doesn't take herself too seriously, and this is what is missing in many early learning centres."

- Father to a 4-year-old boy in Wellington, Western Cape.



The **FOUR** building blocks for successful early learning

Give them love

There are plenty of ways to make children feel loved:

- **Talk to them** about their interests, and show them that you are interested too
- Give them **lots of hugs, and affection**
- **Spend time with them**, and tell them that you care

1

Keep them healthy

A **well-balanced diet, and healthy lifestyle** is crucial for your child's growth.

- Include **lots of fruit, vegetables, and protein** in your child's diet
- Only give children **sugar in moderation** - give them water instead of juice!
- Make sure they get **vaccinated** and visit the clinic when they need to.

2

Make sure they are safe

- **Keep an eye** on your little one, at all times.
- Make sure **sharp or dangerous objects, are hidden** where your child cannot find them.

3

Turn every activity into a learning opportunity!

Remember, your children learn and absorb what they see and hear.

- **Involve them** in simple daily chores, like picking things up and putting them away.
- **Make time for play, and story sharing** every day, to help them learn new and important life skills.
- **You are their very first teacher**, and the little things you do, make a big difference in their learning journey.

4

child's Play

Thando and Thabang

What do I need for each child?

- Toilet roll
- Something to draw with
- Something to stick with (eg. glue, prestik or tape)
- Piece of paper
- Scrap material for clothes
- Wool, feathers or leaves - you can get creative and use any items you have around the house!



Show children How to make a three finger puppet

- Cut a small round piece of paper for your **puppets face**
- **Draw** a set of eyes, a nose, and a mouth, to **create a face**
- Add some clothes by **sticking** scrap material onto your puppet
- Give the puppet some **hair** (you can use feathers, wool, leaves, or any other items)



How can play be a learning experience?

Ask your child these questions:

How will you know if your puppet is happy or sad?

What makes your puppet feel excited, happy, or scared?

What do you say when you are feeling **happy**? How do you look? What do you say when you're sad, and how does this make you **feel**?

create a special daily storytime

Story sharing is one of the simplest ways to help your child **develop language skills, expose them to new ideas, and build their love for learning.** It also encourages a special bonding time with your child.

Top Tips

- Set aside **10-15 minutes** daily, to share a story.
- Take your time, and **enjoy** this special moment with your child.
- Add **movement and props** - your arms could become flapping wings.
- Get into character - **use voices and songs** to bring the story to life.
- Change up your **tone** - raise your voice, and also whisper, to grab attention.
- Make it **interactive!** You can ask your child to repeat sentences, add sound effects, and ask them to name what they see.



Parents

Want to give your child the **best chance to succeed in life?**



Visit: parent.smartstart.org.za
(data free)



Contact our WhatsApp hotline
060 658 6058



Email
hello@smartstart.org.za



For tips and activities in the home
facebook.com/SmartStartSA

Story sharing isn't always done through a book - you can also use:



Pictures



Toys, or items around the house



Drawings



Traditional stories or imagination



A SmartStarter's story

Welcome back SmartStart practitioners!



2022 was a fantastic year for our SmartStart network. With 16 implementing partners, over **8 500** SmartStart practitioners, and more than **58 000** children having attended a SmartStart pre-school, we are getting closer to achieving our vision of reaching every three- to five-year-old countrywide, through **quality learning**.

As we **kick-off 2023**, we want to make sure that you all have the support you need to make this year a great one! Your **re-opening pack** has everything you need for the term ahead! Items include **top-up programme content, family day information, and home idea materials**.

Look out for the 2023 calendar to help plan and stay ahead.

2022 Club of the Year Young ones
(Diaconia in WC)

"I studied a course, through Unisa, that equipped me to support children with special needs, so that I could expand my centre offering. Having joined SmartStart in April 2019, I'm in the process of getting my ECD Level 4 through Boland College. I can see myself growing, from a Day Mother into a fully compliant ECD practitioner. Running a business isn't easy - the business skills training I've received from SmartStart has helped me grow, and manage money differently. Through this process, I've learnt to trust myself more, and see myself going even further in this business. My journey excites me - there's no looking back!"

SmartStarter Naomi Morneak Schoeman, in Strand, Western Cape



To confirm that you've received your re-opening pack, and are set to start Term 1, dial ***134*48333*06#**, and follow the **on-screen instructions**.

Make sure that your SmartStart details are **up-to-date**, as well as the details of the children in your pre-school. This includes deactivating any children who you no longer have in your care.

KEY DATES **World Read Aloud Day**
Wednesday 01 February 2023

Digital SmartStarter Unite
Saturday, 11 March 2023



SmartStarters

Want to get in touch with us?



Visit: <https://smartstart.org.za/practitioners/>



SmartStarter Call Centre:
080 001 4817



Message our WhatsApp Hotline:
060 658 6058



Email hello@smartstart.org.za



For tips and activities to use in your programme:
facebook.com/SmartStartSA

Road to Purple

In 2023, we will be launching our Road to Purple programme. Clubs will work their way up from **News Stars, Rising Stars** to being a fully-fledged **Purple Club**.

Your club will no longer be allocated to a league, based on how many years it has been with SmartStart. Instead, your club will be allocated based on its overall 2022 performance.

Look out for more details at our Digital SmartStarter Unite event on **Saturday, 11th March**.



Reminder!

Any SmartStarter **who has not** claimed their prize by **31 January 2023** will forfeit their winnings, and not be able to claim thereafter. Please contact the Call Centre if you haven't received your prize.



Glue the two figurines and the chest of drawers onto a piece of cardboard and cut them out (including the dotted line 'opening' on the chest drawers) close to the edges. Then carefully cut out the clothing, including the tabs. Fold the tabs back and you are ready to play dress up (and pack away!).