

Handling learner discipline

CHILTON MELLEEM

Discipline in the classroom was highlighted at a Training Teachers in Townships (TTiNT) workshop that was held for primary school educators in Mfuleni on Tuesday 30 August.

The workshop, hosted by volunteers who are willing to tackle problem areas faced in the classroom, was the first of 10 workshops that will be held in the area. The workshop will be held once a month, allowing chance for feedback on progress and other problems arising in the classroom.

At the last workshop various educators highlighted that keeping discipline in the class is a major problem.

The workshop was run by life coach, Renee Lighton, Ali Corbett from South African Sustaina-

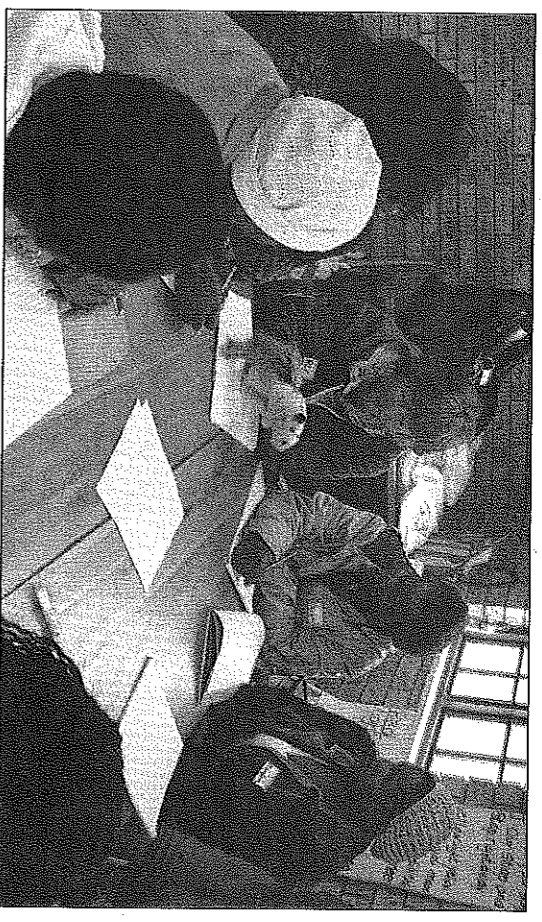
ble Development Initiative (Sasdi) and Meryl Forrie from Proud To Be.

The venue for the workshop was the Mfuleni Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre and the educators formed part of the Mfuleni Educare Forum.

Lighton introduced the idea of making toy instruments with resources that were already available to them, while Corbett made educators aware of the use of hand puppets to keep learners' attention.

"You don't have to buy things when you can make them, parents and teachers have to work together and transform their way of thinking," said Lighton, who has also written a few books on topics such as these.

Educators were then treated to some refreshments of tea and muffins.



Ali Corbett showing teachers in the Mfuleni area a puppet as an approach to engaging children's attention.
 Photo: Chilton Melleem

Cops have a busy month doing duties

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Mfuleni police have been hard at work, serving the community with various programmes as well as combating crime during the month of August.

There have been a few outreach programmes to high schools in the area - Wesbank High School and Manzomhombi High School among others. Talks were given on sexual abuse, teen pregnancy, HIV/Aids and STIs. These talks were assisted by health care workers, women's networks and organisations such as New Women's Movement and Men for Change.

One of the biggest events the Mfuleni police were involved in, was a Women's Day event in Knuts River. About 400 people attended, most of whom were women. There were various talks on domestic violence, child abuse and sexual abuse. The speaker was Debbie Van Strade, who made women aware of their rights and encouraged them to live their lives to the fullest. Women were also entertained by gumboot dancers and an all-girl dance group, Igala Ngam.

The police also issued 11 maintenance warrants during the month. Six people were arrested for not paying child support.



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