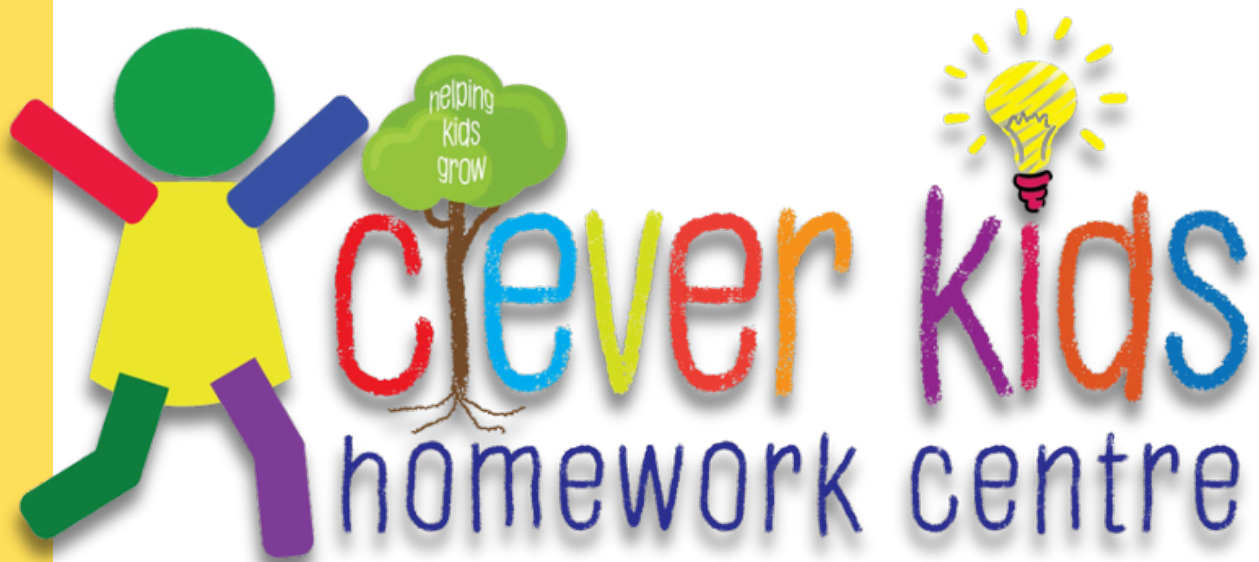




Annual Report

April 2025 - March 2026





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Chairperson Report

Karin Drescher • Chairperson

This year marks a very special milestone for Clever Kids Homework Centre - we are celebrating 10 years of walking alongside the children and families of Masiphumelele.

Not long ago, I visited one of our families who live in the wetlands of the township. As I stepped into their small shack, something immediately caught my attention. Hanging proudly on the wall was a large framed photograph of me with five of our Clever Kids students. It wasn't a recent picture - it had been taken almost ten years ago, during the early days of our work.

I was deeply moved.

This family has very little. Yet they chose to spend their own money enlarging and framing this photograph, giving it a place of honour in their home. To them, it represented something worth remembering. It reminded me that the greatest impact of Clever Kids cannot be measured in numbers alone, but in the relationships we have built over the years.

The children in that picture are no longer the little ones I first met. Today, they are in Grade 11. We have had the joy of watching them grow from curious young children into responsible young adults, celebrating their achievements, encouraging them through challenges, and standing beside them year after year.

That photograph also reminded me that Clever Kids has never been just about homework. It has always been about people.

For ten years, parents have entrusted us with one of their greatest treasures - their children. Their trust has allowed us to become part of their families' lives. We have celebrated milestones together, walked through difficult seasons together, and shared in the hope of seeing each child reach their God-given potential. It is a privilege we never take for granted.

Looking back over the past decade, I am filled with gratitude. What began with a handful of children has grown into a community that has walked alongside well over a hundred children, encouraging them,



equipping them, and giving them hope for a brighter future. None of this would have been possible without the faithful support of our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners. Your generosity has done far more than provide education and practical assistance - you have invested in children, strengthened families, and helped build a community where young people know they are valued and loved.

Above all, we thank God for His unwavering faithfulness. Time and again, He has provided exactly what was needed - often in ways we could never have imagined. As we celebrate ten years of Clever Kids, we do so with humble and thankful hearts, trusting that the One who has faithfully led us this far will continue to guide us in the years ahead.

Thank you for being part of this story. Whether you have prayed, volunteered, partnered with us, or given financially, you have played a part in changing lives. We look to the future with hope and expectation, believing that the best chapters of the Clever Kids story are still to come.

With sincere gratitude,
Karin Drescher
Chairperson

About Clever Kids Homework Centre

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower children to break the cycle of poverty by providing after-school access to quality education. We accomplish this by offering individualized homework assistance, tutoring, and educational resources. The cornerstone of our work is a nurturing family atmosphere where learners are encouraged to overcome academic challenges, cultivate a passion for learning and build self-confidence.

Our History

Due to the many challenges that come with poverty, parents in the township of Masiphumelele, South Africa, have little to no time or resources to help their children with their education. The schools in the township are underfunded and overcrowded, which leads to poor educational outcomes. Many of these vulnerable children lack parental involvement, basic needs and health care. Poor educational outcomes often leads to a lifetime of poverty.

Karin Drescher saw a need for educational and family support while working with children and their families in the poorest parts of Masiphumelele. As a response to this need, she founded Clever Kids Homework Centre, a nonprofit and public benefit organization located in Masiphumelele. At the centre the main focus is underprivileged primary and high school students who need extra help with homework and a safe place to go in the afternoons.

Clever Kids Homework Centre was established in 2015 with a handful of volunteers and only 7 children. It has grown to now employ 11 local staff members, professionally trained tutors and South African volunteers and serves over 70 children between the ages of 5 to 21, who regularly attend.



What we do

Clever Kids Homework Centre offers children access to better education and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

- We provide a safe place to study while creating a positive family atmosphere.
- We offer individualized homework help and learning support in a loving environment.
- We offer tutoring, by qualified staff, in all relevant subjects and teach based on the textbooks used in school.
- We provide a hot nutritious lunch daily, computer access for research projects, online learning programs, and computer literacy programs.
- We offer financial help with the purchase of school uniforms, school supplies, hygiene products and provide health care.
- We celebrate each child's birthday, go on various outings, enjoy playtime and explore their creativity with crafts.
- We also offer family support by providing food parcels, aid after house fires or other disasters, and other support evaluated on an individual basis.



3 additional classrooms



Main House



Second House

Foundation Phase

Grade R - Every great journey starts with a strong foundation.



This year, we welcomed six new children into our Grade R class, while our first Grade R learners proudly moved on to Grade 1.

The early years of a child's education lay the foundation for everything that follows. Through our Grade R programme, children learn English through play, build early literacy and numeracy skills, become familiar with classroom routines, and enjoy their first experiences with educational computer programmes.

By the time they enter Grade 1, they don't just know their letters and numbers - they have developed confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning. They are able to concentrate, follow instructions, work independently, and have a strong foundation in English and mathematics, giving them a valuable head start.



Grade 1 - Curious Hearts, Growing Minds - by Lindi



What stands out most about our Grade 1 learners is their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Even after a full day at school, they arrive each afternoon asking, "Miss, what are we going to do today?" Their curiosity and willingness to participate make every session a joy.

The trust they place in us is very special. They are warm, open, and full of affection, often greeting the staff with a smile and a hug. Their kindness and joyful spirit create a welcoming atmosphere that makes Clever Kids feel like a second home.

One of the most encouraging moments this year was seeing the progress they made, especially during the second term. Their hard work, growing confidence, and positive attitude towards learning were clearly reflected in their results.

Computer lessons and arts and crafts are among their favourite activities, where their creativity and excitement truly shine. They also look forward to sharing a nutritious afternoon meal together each day.



Our Primary School Learners

The Joy of Learning



The other day, I walked into our Grade 4 classroom during playtime. Expecting to find children building, drawing, or chatting with their friends, I asked what they were doing.

With big smiles they replied, "Karin, we're playing flashcards!"

I sat down and watched in amazement. They were eagerly testing each other on their multiplication tables, laughing, encouraging one another, and asking for more cards. What could have felt like hard work had become a game they genuinely enjoyed.

Moments like these remind us that the best learning happens when children discover the joy of learning. Instead of seeing education as something they have to do, they begin to see it as something they want to do.

When Learning Clicks

One of my greatest joys is spending time in the classroom with our students.

Sometimes they arrive after school feeling frustrated because they have been introduced to a new maths concept they simply didn't understand. We gather around the whiteboard and work through it together - slowly, step by step, with patience and encouragement. We explain it in a different way, answer every question, and keep going until suddenly you see it happen...

"Click!"

Their faces light up as understanding replaces frustration. Almost without fail, they look at me with excitement and say,

"Karin, can we do three more? This time we want to try them on our own!"

Those are some of my favourite moments. They remind me that learning isn't about getting the right answer the first time. It's about giving children the confidence to keep trying until they succeed.



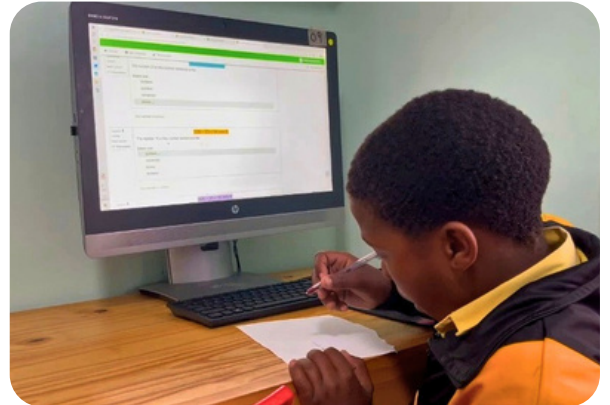
Our Primary School Learners

Learning Without Limits

Every child learns differently. Some grasp new concepts quickly, while others need more time and practice before everything falls into place. Through our computer-based learning programme, every learner can progress at their own pace, building confidence one step at a time.

Beginning in Grade R, our children regularly use educational programmes to strengthen their English and Mathematics skills. For our younger learners especially, these sessions provide valuable additional learning time, allowing them to practise, repeat, and master new concepts in a way that is both engaging and enjoyable.

One of the greatest strengths of digital learning is the immediate feedback it provides. Children know straight away whether they have understood a concept and are encouraged to keep trying until they succeed. We have found that this not only improves academic performance but also develops perseverance, independence, and a genuine enjoyment of learning.



Grade 5 - Never Giving up - by Sinazo



For the past three years, I have had the privilege of walking alongside this wonderful group of learners, watching them grow academically, emotionally, and in confidence. One of the greatest lessons we want every child to learn is that not understanding something today does not mean they will never understand it. We work patiently through each challenge together, and if one teaching method doesn't work, we simply try another until the moment everything suddenly makes sense. Over the years, this has created a classroom where learners are no longer afraid to ask questions or make mistakes because they know they will never be judged or left behind. Every achievement is celebrated, whether it is one mark of improvement or an outstanding result, creating a culture where learners encourage one another instead of competing. Watching these children grow from Grade 3 to Grade 5 has been one of the greatest privileges of my teaching journey.

The High School Years

Grade 9 - Growing in Confidence - by Rita

Working with our Grade 9 learners has been a real privilege. Having journeyed with them since Grade 7, we have built strong relationships, making it a joy to share in their school life, friendships, and personal growth.

One of my favourite parts of each afternoon is watching them arrive at Clever Kids. Although many of them attend the same school, they do not always get the opportunity to see one another during the school day. As they settle down to enjoy their lunch, the room fills with excitement as they eagerly share the day's events, laugh together, and catch up with one another. It is wonderful to see the sense of belonging and friendship they have developed.

Over the past two years, I have witnessed remarkable growth and maturity within this group. Several learners have had to navigate very difficult personal circumstances. I have been deeply encouraged by the resilience they have shown and by the maturity with which they have faced these challenges. Being able to support, encourage, and guide them through these formative years has been both humbling and rewarding.

Academically, it has been a privilege to support learners with a wide range of abilities. Some have excelled academically, while others have gained confidence by overcoming subjects they once found difficult. Watching each learner grow in their own way has been equally rewarding.

One particularly memorable moment came after an examination, when the learners returned excitedly to tell me that we had practised many of the same types of questions during our aftercare sessions. Seeing their confidence and excitement was a wonderful reminder of the value of consistent preparation and perseverance. It was encouraging to see their hard work reflected in their results.

As I reflect on this year, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to invest in these young people. Watching them grow over the past two years has been a wonderful reminder that lasting change takes time. It is a privilege to walk alongside them during these important years and to see them growing in confidence, resilience, and hope for the future.



Lorraine teaching Geography with so much passion.



School projects



The High School Years

Giving Back to Grade 8 to 12



One of the greatest joys is seeing former Clever Kids students return to invest in the next generation. Oyintando, one of our former Grade 12 learners, is currently in his final year of Financial Management at False Bay TVET College (Fish Hoek Campus). Despite his own demanding studies, he faithfully comes to Clever Kids to tutor our high school students in Accounting and Economics.

His support has become an invaluable asset to our programme. Having recently completed these subjects himself, he explains difficult concepts clearly and patiently. His calm and confident manner creates a learning environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and tackling challenging topics. This has contributed to a significant improvement in their Accounting and Economics results.

For our learners, Oyintando is much more than a tutor. Having once sat where they sit today, he is living proof that dedication, perseverance, and education can open doors to new opportunities. Seeing him return to invest in the next generation is a beautiful reminder of the lasting impact of Clever Kids.

Preparing for the Digital World



Our Microsoft Word training for Grade 8 to 12 learners continued to equip students with practical computer skills that will benefit them long after they leave school. They learned how to professionally format documents, create tables, write CVs, and prepare assignments - essential skills for further education and future employment.

As technology becomes increasingly important in everyday life, digital literacy is no longer optional. By giving our learners hands-on experience with Microsoft Office, we are helping them build confidence and preparing them for opportunities in college, university, and the workplace.

Exploring Career Pathways

Helping our learners explore career opportunities - by Kingwell



One of the year's most impactful highlights was taking our Grade 10–12 learners on university exposure visits. For many, it was their first time stepping onto a university campus. Suddenly, higher education was no longer something that happened to "other people" - it became a future they could begin to imagine for themselves.

As a result, several learners have become more focused and determined, showing greater effort in their schoolwork and setting clearer academic goals. This shift in mindset has been encouraging and reflects the positive influence of both academic support and career guidance initiatives implemented throughout the year.

Inspired by Those Who Have Gone Before

One memorable moment this year was a motivational event organised by our high school tutor Kingwell. He invited university students and young professionals from Masiphumelele to share their personal journeys with our Grade 12 learners and other high school students from the community.

Listening to people who grew up in the same streets, attended the same schools, and faced many of the same challenges made success feel real and attainable. The speakers shared honestly about the hard work, setbacks, and determination it took to reach university and build their careers, encouraging the learners not to give up on their own dreams.

For many of our students, these role models demonstrated that their background does not have to determine their future. Seeing what is possible inspired them to aim higher, work harder, and believe in themselves.



Ready to Learn

Meeting basic needs



Many of our children received a new winter tracksuit. One little Grade 1 girl burst into tears when she was given hers. She was so overwhelmed with gratitude that she could hardly believe it was hers to keep. Moments like these remind us that what may seem like a simple gift can mean the world to a child.

A school uniform is much more than clothing. It gives children a sense of belonging, equality, and pride. Wearing a clean uniform and a good pair of school shoes helps them walk into the classroom with confidence.

Many of the families we serve simply cannot afford to replace worn-out uniforms, torn backpacks, or shoes that have become too small or have holes in them. Before purchasing new items, we always look to see whether they can be repaired. Whenever possible, shoes are mended, backpacks are stitched, and uniforms are altered or patched to extend their use. This helps us use our resources wisely while teaching our children the value of caring for what they have.

When an item can no longer be repaired, we provide new school uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and warm winter tracksuits to ensure that no child is disadvantaged because of their family's financial circumstances.

Caring for Health and Dignity

This year, we were delighted to welcome a volunteer dentist who taught our children how to brush and care for their teeth through fun, practical demonstrations.

Many of the families we serve cannot afford even basic hygiene products. Whenever needed, Clever Kids provides essentials such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Vaseline, and sanitary pads. We also help with haircuts for the boys and hair washing for the girls, ensuring that every child feels clean, confident, and ready to learn.



A Warm Meal, A Full Heart!

Providing a nutritious hot meal is an essential part of every afternoon at Clever Kids. For our 74 students, it is far more than something to eat - it provides the energy they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

One of our learners explained why this means so much to him. He lives with his mother, who is currently unemployed. He told us that sometimes there is no food at all at home. He is especially grateful that, at Clever Kids, he receives a proper, nutritious, cooked meal rather than just a simple snack. Knowing that there will always be enough food waiting for him gives him one less thing to worry about. For children growing up in difficult circumstances, that sense of security makes a real difference.

Most of our students receive a meal at school through South Africa's National School Nutrition Programme. This programme is an invaluable support for many families. However, it is served during the morning, and resources can be stretched, particularly in overcrowded schools. By the time the children arrive at Clever Kids in the afternoon, they are hungry again and need a substantial meal before they can focus on their homework and learning.



A healthy, balanced meal does far more than satisfy an empty stomach. It improves concentration, gives children the energy they need for the afternoon, and reminds them that they are seen, valued, and cared for. Every plate of food served at Clever Kids is an investment in a child's future. Thank you for making this daily expression of care and hope possible.

Our Kitchen in Numbers

- 🍽️ Almost 12,000 nutritious hot meals served each year
- 🍚 320 kg of rice
- 🌽 400 kg of mealie meal
- 🍝 300 kg of pasta
- 🍲 320 kg of samp and beans
- ❤️ 74 children cared for throughout the school year



Every Child Deserves to Be Celebrated

At Clever Kids, every child is celebrated on their birthday. We sing together and present each child with a birthday cake and a small gift. Instead of sharing the cake at our centre, every child takes it home to enjoy with their loved ones. For many of our families, a birthday cake is simply not affordable.

This year, one of our Grade R children received her very first birthday cake. With tears in her eyes, she held it tightly and couldn't stop smiling, knowing she would finally be able to share this special moment with her family.

A learner who joined Clever Kids in Grade 8 shared a similar story. Because there was never enough money at home, he had never had a birthday cake. Until this year, all he had ever received was a simple "Happy Birthday" from his parents.

For many of our children, these moments are about far more than a cake. They remind them that they are seen, loved, and truly worth celebrating.



Growing Together



Throughout the year, we created opportunities for our children to simply enjoy being children. Beach outings, our Christmas celebration, and many moments of play filled their hearts with joy, strengthened friendships, and created precious memories. Just as importantly, we spent time reading the Bible, praying, and worshipping together, helping our children discover how deeply they are loved by God. It is our prayer that each child not only grows academically but also comes to know the hope, peace, and unconditional love found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Beyond the Classroom



Through Their Eyes

Over the past few weeks, some of our children took part in a very special photography project. Sophie, one of our volunteers, placed disposable cameras into their hands and invited them to capture their community through their own eyes. Each child was given 36 photographs to tell their story.

The children photographed not only the places they call home, but also the realities they face every day. A particularly exciting moment was visiting the photo laboratory to watch their films being developed. Seeing their own photographs slowly come to life was an unforgettable experience.

The images on this page offer an honest glimpse into life in Masiphumelele through the eyes of a child. They reveal overflowing rubbish around the community's only playground, bullying among peers, and the impact of alcohol abuse on families and neighbourhoods.

While these images reflect some of the challenges our children face, they also remind us why the work of Clever Kids is so important. Every afternoon, we strive to provide a safe place where children are encouraged, supported, and given hope for a brighter future.

Supporting Families in Times of Need

Many of the families of our children face daily challenges that most of us cannot imagine. When there is no food at home, when the lights go off because the electricity has been cut, when there is no money for transport, or when a shack is destroyed by fire or floods, life becomes overwhelming. In these moments we step in to help. Through food parcels and practical support, we bring relief, dignity, and hope to families who are struggling.

It is more than just meeting urgent needs, it is showing our families that they are not alone, that someone cares, and that together we can get through the hardest times.

Thank you to all who make this possible.



Testimonial

A Journey of 10 Years



The Grade 12 Class of 2025 – celebrating the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next.

"Looking back, I would say that I grew up in Clever Kids. Over the years, I was shaped into becoming a better person, not only educationally but also spiritually. Clever Kids has been there for me physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I have been part of Clever Kids since Grade 2 until I matriculated in 2025, which is a journey of ten years.

At Clever Kids, we did so many things from a young age. We played games, went on Christmas outings to the beach, prayed together, and read the Bible through Superbook. All of these experiences helped shape me into the person I am today.

The knowledge we received from our tutors was amazing, and I can honestly say I learned something new every day. It helped me grow and become a better person. The subjects I found most challenging were Physical Sciences and Mathematics, and they would have been much harder if it wasn't for the help I received at Clever Kids. I am forever grateful for their support.

Not only did I receive help with my education, but I was also supported during difficult times. When our house burned down in 2021, Clever Kids helped my family with food, furniture and practical support, which meant so much to us. Over the years, they also provided me with school uniforms, so that I could look like the other children. Whenever I was short of something, they were always willing to help.

Before we even started our homework, we would always have a meal first so that we could study with full stomachs and have the energy to learn.

I am sharing all of this because I want to express my gratitude for everything Clever Kids Homework Centre has done for me. I was able to achieve good Matric results and even received a distinction in IsiXhosa, and I know I could not have done it without the support of this organisation. Thank you so much."

— Zusiphe

Thank You!



As we celebrate ten years of Clever Kids, we are reminded that none of this would have been possible without the incredible people who have stood with us along the way.

To our faithful donors, dedicated volunteers, committed staff, board members, and every friend who has prayed, encouraged, and believed in our vision - thank you. Your generosity has done far more than provide meals, school uniforms, educational support, and opportunities. Together, we have helped children discover their potential, build confidence, and believe that their future can be different.

Every smiling face, every new skill learned, every milestone reached, and every dream that has begun to take shape is part of your story too.

As we look to the future, we do so with grateful hearts. Thank you for believing in the children of Masiphumelele and for making the past ten years possible. We look forward to continuing this journey together as we invest in the next generation.

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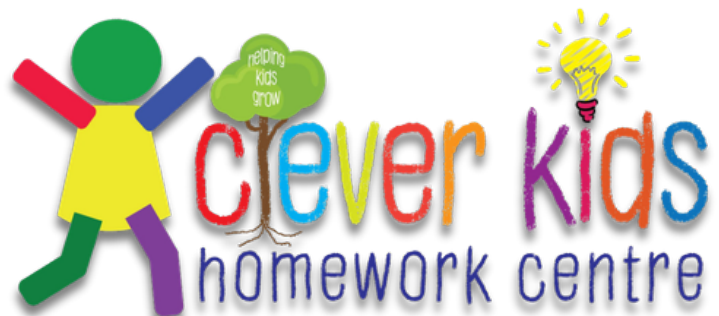
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