



## **Excellence in Grade R Teaching**

Nominee: **Ms Michelle Swart**

School: **Hermanus Pre-Primary**

Cluster: **Overberg**

District: **Overberg Education District**

Ms Michelle Swart has been teaching for 15 years and for the past four years she has been a Grade R teacher at Hermanus Pre-Primary School. She is a qualified early childhood development practitioner and has a BA (HSS) psychological counselling degree as well as a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Foundation Phase, which she completed in 2018.

She is an enthusiastic and passionate teacher who is innovative and creative in her teaching methodologies – she makes learning fun! Ms Swart fulfills her teaching and leadership role with loyalty, dedication and support to other teachers at school and throughout the entire circuit. She renews her skills constantly and attended several training courses, including The Happy Handwriting and Early Identification to Learning Barriers courses, as well as Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) training courses and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) Emergent Literacy Project.

She implements diversity and inclusivity in her teaching by supporting all learners from different backgrounds, abilities, cultures and religions. She is solution driven, diligently puts interventions in place for all learners with barriers in her class and encourages parent involvement in the process of intervention. Ms Swart believes in learning through fun and play. She meticulously plans and arranges her classroom space for optimal and sensory stimulation. This creates great learning opportunities for language development, mathematical thinking and social skills development, such as taking turns and problem solving.

Ms Swart has an exceptionally print-rich and well-structured classroom, thereby creating a conducive learning environment for her learners. She instils a sense of worth in her Grade R class to ensure that learners' reception year is an introduction to an exciting educational journey. Ms Swart believes in genuine, honest and consistent positive reinforcement. She has the ability to work under pressure and still produce work of an exceptional standard. Not only is she an example of excellence in all areas as a teacher, but also as leader in the school and community member. With her strong leadership, excellent organisational and human relations skills, Ms Swart, as member of the school management team, plays an active role in school planning.

She is a worthy nominee for the Excellence in Primary School Teaching Award.