



Agnes Van Wyk

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Age is No Obstacle: Agnes Van Wyk

Participant: ECD Teacher Training and Governing Body Training – Principal, Rainbow Day Care



Agnes Van Wyk has left no stone unturned in her quest to transform Grabouw into a sustainable community and she's starting where it matters – by looking after its children.

"I want to build up and develop our children so that in the future we can depend on them to help those in need," she says.

This 57-year old single mother of five, foster mother to three and grandmother to seven, is a dedicated philanthropist who in 2007 opened Rainbow Day Care Centre to look after 30 children.

Two years later she completed her training for a Level 4 National Certificate in ECD with CECD and received governing body training. Her staff have also gone on to receive ECD training.

"I found the ECD Teacher Training very interesting. It was tough, but I learnt how to schedule a daily programme and how to ensure children are fed healthy foods.

These are just some of the things she has now incorporated into her daycare centre.

"Before the course I would chastise children when they had done something wrong, but I could see when I was speaking loudly or shouting how very unhappy they were. Now I understand children's feelings, I know how to give children instructions, and how to discipline and reprimand them," she says.

When Agnes looks back on her training she does so with a sense of pride.

"The course was a great learning experience and I'm very grateful. When I think of where I came from and where I'm standing now I feel good because I succeeded in spite of my age."

Agnes says she knows the training she has received enables her to be a better teacher and that this will stand her learners in good stead.

"I hope that the children I've taught will have learnt the values of standing up for themselves, that they will be guided to make a success of their lives and that when they do they will help those who need help in return. My dream is that one day they will bring what they have learnt back to the community," says Agnes.

Prior to opening Rainbow Day Care, Agnes worked in housing projects for the municipality, represented farming communities on the Council Farm Forum and fundraised for Child Welfare. She later worked as a home-based carer working with HIV-positive and cancer patients.

In the future, Agnes looks set to relocate from the home-based site she currently runs out of to a new centre in the area.