



Henrietha October

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Always Dream Big: Henrietha October

Participant: Governing Body Training – Principal, Jack and Jill Educare

Henrietha remembers the day the two containers first arrived by crane at Grabouw – their exterior walls painted with brightly coloured rainbows and clouds.

These would be transformed into a place of learning where children could take their first steps to becoming successful adults and maybe even teachers, policemen and nurses one day.

It was January 2006.

"I thought I was crazy from happiness," says Henrietha recalling the realisation of her lifelong dream.

Facilitated by CECD, two more edutainers were delivered at the end of February – a gift from the Haley Foundation with the support from the Zoe Carrs Education Trust based in London.

On 13 March 2006, the ECD centre officially opened, providing a wonderland of preschool fun and activity.

With CECD's support, Jack & Jill is today also registered with the Department of

Education and is equipped with four fully qualified teachers and governing body members who have the ability to assist with fundraising and identify areas of the ECD centre that require maintenance or building extensions. CECD has also assisted with fundraising efforts as well as the installation of a verandah, roll-out lawn, fence, front gate, basins and geyser.

"It's strange to think that there used to be just bush here, and the plot was used by *skollies*," says Henrietha. "Then the municipality cleaned up the pieces of glass, cut down the trees and cleared the plot and the containers arrived."

On the day Jack & Jill was launched, 65 children enrolled.

Today, as principal of the centre, Henrietha has 82 learners under her wing.

"I never thought we'd be where we are today," she says. "I've since realised you must always dream big, and believe in the One up above."

