

*Jessica Alberts*



“

How far I've come from working in apple factories; teaching children was always meant to be.

# A Passion for Reading: Jessica Alberts

Participant: ECD Teacher Training – Teacher, Kabouterland Dagsorg

A Pineview resident and mother of two daughters, aged 12 and 18, Jessica Alberts remembers her first visit to the library, as a young girl with her primary-school class, like it was yesterday. Once introduced, she was hooked on reading.

It's no coincidence that, years later, it would be an advertisement on a noticeboard in the very same library that would encourage her to share her love of books and learning with others, and in the process forever change her life.

CECD was recruiting trainees for its ECD teacher training project, and was offering complimentary training in a Level 4 National Certificate.

As a substitute teacher for three years at Kabouterland Dagsorg in Grabouw, this free training was an opportunity of a lifetime for Jessica.

"I realised I enjoyed working with the children at Kabouterland and I knew that I needed to study further in that direction. I started the course, because I wanted to be a preschool teacher."

Apprehensive about what lay ahead, Jessica says she did not regret the steps she took.

"The first time I went to class I thought it would be tough, but it wasn't that tough. I got stuck in my studies because I knew it would

help me in my future.

"I vowed I would not give up and that I would ask for help if I felt stuck. Yes, we were older ladies in the class, but all of us encouraged each other. There was a great sense of teamwork. As a result, I met a lot of new people and I'm still very good friends with most of them."

The results of Jessica's training are showing in her class of three to four-year olds at Kabouterland Dagsorg.

"I work more effectively now. I know what I need to do and I am more organised. I enjoy helping the children with their reading. I want them to read more. Some of their parents don't expose them much to newspapers or magazines, so I try to do it in class with them."

As a result of her training, Jessica is in the process of negotiating a promotion to a permanent teacher's position.

Looking to the future Jessica says she would very much like to complete her Level 5 training so that she has the option of being a primary school teacher.

"When I think of how far I've come from the times I used to work in apple factories I realise that teaching children was always meant to be my path. I'm glad I'm in this field and that I can lead children in the right life direction. This makes me feel proud."