

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY 2017

Nantes Park, Bridgetown



The Centre for Early Childhood Development and the Cape Town Museum of Childhood celebrated Universal Children's Day, in the spirit of childhood, with 200 children at the Nantes Park, in Bridgetown, Athlone. The 200 children were from neighbouring early childhood development (ECD) centres – Nantes Educare, Bridges Day Care Centre, Ma'roof Educare, Bethany Day Care Centre and Uluntu Educare.

Universal Children's Day is celebrated annually on 20 November around the world. This is the second time we have celebrated Universal Children's Day with children at the park and what better a way to celebrate than to bring hundreds of children to a park to play! Play is a crucial part of children's early development and as such the aim of the event was to bring children together through a common theme of play.

Other than the free play that the park naturally caters for, CECD arranged for numerous partners to take part in offering exciting activities on the day. The day began with the Chairperson of Oasis Group, Shaheen Ebrahim, reading a story to the children, followed by Nal'ibali facilitating a multilingual story telling session. The children were then free to choose which activity they wished to participate in for the rest of the day. The College of Magic had an exciting roaming magic show, the Cape Town Traffic Services offered a child-friendly traffic demonstration with "Danny the Cat", and the National Development Agency (NDA) and Foundation for Community Work (FCW) brought along a Mobile Toy Library for children to pick and choose furry friends and toys to play with during the course of the day. Apart from this, CECD set up various activity stations – including a Lego construction station, painting station, play-dough station and a face painting station where children were transformed into magical creatures or their favourite super heroes.

After lunch, all 200 children went home with their own party pack consisting of an age-appropriate book – courtesy of Book Dash – and an iced biscuit. Oasis Group also provided the children with a party pack of tasty treats. The five participating ECD centres were also provided with a book hamper for their centres – courtesy of PRAESA.

CECD and the Cape Town Museum of Childhood express their thanks to all the participating partners, and most importantly, to the young children who enthusiastically embraced the fun.



Compiled by the Centre for Early Childhood Development

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