



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Special Needs Teaching

Name: Delanie Geldenhuys

School: Alta du Toit School

District: Metro East Education District

Ms Geldenhuys is a passionate teacher who believes in the power of individualised teaching in her classroom with special needs learners. Her individualised teaching and learning style for her learners is evident as each of them has a personalised table seating with materials designed on their level. Differentiation in her lesson planning and engagement with learners on their respective ability levels are discernible as she believes in always meeting the needs of her learners. She communicates learner progress to both learners and parents by regularly reviewing her learners' individual educational plans. She works closely with the occupational and speech therapists of the school in order to accommodate the various barriers to learning of the learners in her class.

Ms Geldenhuys strongly relies on technology driven strategies for integrated learning by having Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment in her

class for her learners. Her beautifully displayed classroom represents her organised way of teaching. She believes in learner-centred techniques by including learners' interests when planning lessons. Practical apparatus is clearly visible in her teaching and this motivates learners to take part in lessons actively. Visual schedules in her classroom enable learners to follow her daily routine and help communication with non-verbal learners.

Ms Geldenhuys also includes value-based teaching in her class by being part of the Transform2Perform platform at the school. Values are made practical utilising especially art activities. An active reward system in her class excites learners to engage in lessons and learners look forward to the "Superstar Award" certificate at the end of each week.

She has a committed WhatsApp group with the parents and is involved in organising annual Mother's and

Father's Day events, the annual Foundation Phase Christmas party, Valentine's Day celebrations and the Watermelon Feast. She is also serving on several committees such as the resource committee, sports committee, fundraising committee and ICT committee She is active in designing and supplying curriculum resource packages for her colleagues and her own class and did so during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also

known as the Bingo "guru" in the school as she not only uses Bingo in her teaching daily but presents Bingo workshops to colleagues in the school.

She regularly attends professional development courses to develop her special needs teaching career further and truly lives out her calling as a special needs educator.