



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Grade R Teaching

Name: Heather van Staden
School: Irista Primary School, Sarepta, Kuils River
District: Metro East

Ms Heather van Staden is an energetic and motivated educator who fills her classroom and the community with her vibrant personality, knowledge, and skills.

She is confident and innovative in her approach, and passionate about nurturing the learners' natural curiosity and creativity. Not only does she prepare creative activities in her classroom, but it also extends to the community where she allows learners to look beyond their circumstances, encouraging empathy and sensitivity towards their fellow human beings.

Her excellence in Grade R Teaching builds trust among all those whom she encounters. She identifies the need to empower parents to assist their children better at home as well as in the community.

Through her teaching, she exemplifies and models the core values of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED). She instils care, accountability, competence, integrity,

innovation and responsiveness through leading by example and constantly reflecting on her teaching methods.

Through her play-based, holistic approach, she identifies her learners' interests. To promote critical thinking, she plans learner-centred activities that challenge them. This also includes finding opportunities for her learners to showcase their talents.

Her compassion and high-quality techniques have long term benefits including a life-time commitment to the learners she encounters.

She confidently integrates Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into her classroom to prepare her learners for the future.

"Be the change you want to see in the world", is the motto she lives by!

Heather van Staden epitomises excellence in Grade R Teaching and beyond.



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