



# Hemel-en-Aarde Valley Pre-School

**Founded on Hamilton Russell Vineyards in 1996**

*Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world*  
**Nelson Mandela**



## **Who we are**

The Hemel-en-Aarde Valley Pre-School is a not-for-profit project run for the farming community in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, as well as the broader community of the small town of Hermanus in the Western Cape, South Africa.

## **Our purpose**

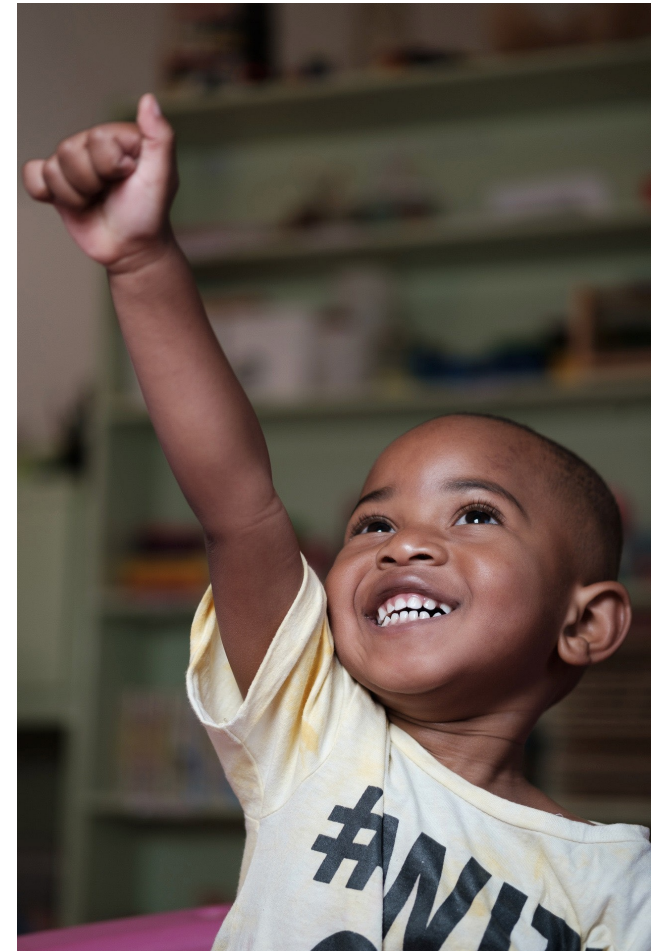
To provide high quality pre-school education, to maximise the chances of early success in in their education and therefore successful completion of their schooling.

## **What we do**

We deliver top quality education, care, early childhood development and formal pre-schooling, for less privileged children from the agricultural community and the wider Hermanus area.

## **Our aim**

It is our goal to not only provide a safe and happy environment in which to get the children school ready, but to also inspire them to learn additional skills to enable them to become valuable contributors to society later in life.



*Without equality of early childhood development, there can be no true equality in society. It is our mission to address this fundamental truth as best we can within our community, with the limited resources available to us.*







## Why do we do what we do?

Children who receive high quality early childhood development input, are significantly more likely to grow up to be happy and productive participants in their communities – and society at large. There is now widespread consensus that investing in early childhood development has a far higher return on spending than more traditional attempts to address poverty and inequality. In one of the most complex and seemingly intractable challenges of human society, which the greatest and most sophisticated minds have attempted to solve, it is the youngest of us who have proven to be the most important longer-term players in a productive society.

*A child miss-educated is a child lost*  
**John F Kennedy**





## Our Beautiful School

The school is situated on the wonderful Hamilton Russell Vineyards Wine Estate and the children are often taken for walks on the property, visiting the horses and donkeys and enjoying the peaceful and beautiful surroundings. We have a huge lawn area and big playground with lovely sandpits, jungle-gyms and other equipment useful for mental and physical development.

Jungle-gyms play a unique role in the development of the children. Although generations of children have grown up playing on jungle-gyms, their roots date back to the 1920's. Jungle-gyms are known to promote excellent physical, mental, emotional and social health. They have been popular for decades because of their timeless appeal to every kid's desire to learn, grow, create, imagine, pretend and be active. Children often spend far too much time doing exclusively indoor activities.

The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. The environment in which their development happens is crucial to the quality of the outcome.







*LEARN*

*GROW*

*BE ACTIVE*

*CREATE*

*PRETEND*

*IMAGINE*

*PLAY*



## Our Nutrition Programme

You cannot teach a hungry child!

Good nutrition is essential for young children. Healthy eating enhances a young child's ability to learn and enriches their quality of life. Our nutrition programme is based not only on the children's physical development, but more importantly, their cognitive development -

how they think, explore and work things out. It is the development of knowledge, skills, problem solving and personal dispositions, which helps children think and understand the world around them.

A healthy nutritious diet is one of the most important factors for ensuring that a child reaches optimal development. Providing adequate energy, vitamins, minerals and macro-nutrients is necessary for optimal brain development, whilst still allowing for the rest of the body to grow and mature as it should.

We provide vitamin enriched porridge for breakfast and a cooked, properly portioned balanced lunch daily, cooked by our full-time chef. Afternoon naps are followed with some fruit, yoghurt and snacks.

We also work with Ukwanda, a subdivision of Stellenbosch University's Nutrition Department to further enhance our nutrition programme.



# THE FACTS

Not-for-Profit and  
registered NPO  
and Public Benefit  
Organisation

The school was  
started in 1996 by  
Anthony Hamilton  
Russell

Located in the  
Hemel-en-Aarde  
Valley, R320,  
Hermanus, Cape of  
Good Hope, 7200

3 dedicated  
teachers, a full-  
time chef and a  
full-time cleaner

50 students  
yearly

All lessons taught in  
English, but between  
the children they  
speak 7 languages  
(English, Afrikaans,  
Xhosa, Shona, Sesotho,  
Chichima and isiZulu)







## The Key People

Our 3 teachers Mendine, Ashlin and Emmie are joined by Zelda, our full time chef and cleaner.

All 3 our teachers have completed their teachers diplomas through the school.

Talita and Chantel, both employed by Hamilton Russell Vineyards, form part of the team, assisting the school (as part of their personal charity) in the position of Chairperson and Secretary and help with the school's fundraising, administration, registrations, daily running, financials and strategy. This means that no management salaries have to be carried by the school and all the funds can go directly to the children.



## The Support

Most of the pre-school's income is generated by Hamilton Russell Vineyards and the generosity of Anthony and Olive Hamilton Russell. They donated the building, which houses the school and they provide the water, electricity, maintenance and garden services to the school free of charge. We are also lucky enough that a portion of the sale of Ashbourne's Blanc is donated to the school. Without their support the school would struggle to be viable.

The rest of our monthly running costs we have to raise and are donated by kind, generous **people like you!**

Donations can be big or small and help with outings, events, Christmas celebrations, and also with some bigger projects. We are looking to try make our school campus a little greener by adding solar power and also a vegetable garden (to inspire the children to understand where food comes from). We would also love to build a scooter track with some road signs, to help train our children in street safety. Everything helps the children become the fully rounded adults they can be.



*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead

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Bank: ABSA  
Account No: 408-135-5896  
Branch: 63 20 05  
Type: Cheque  
SWIFT: ABSAZAJJ  
Not-for-Profit Organisation  
(NPO) Number: 126-442  
Early Childhood Development Centre  
(ECD) Number: C13052  
Public Benefit Organisation  
(PBO) Number: 930046859

The School is a Public Benefit Organisation (able to issue 18A tax receipts), making all donations tax efficient.









*Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.*

**Malcolm X**