

The Nature Centre – Hazyview
Skills development program for our Youth.
Enrich – Educate – Empower

INTRODUCTION

Contact with nature has been shown to increase a person's sense of belonging and acceptance. **Studies indicate that nature play can increase children's negotiation, conflict-resolution and other important life skills.** Outdoor exploration in nature allows for unstructured play, generating a sense of freedom, independence and inner strength which children can draw upon when experiencing future incidents of stress. **Exposure to nature can reduce student's stress levels by as much as 28 percent.** Spending time in the open air and learning outside increases student's ability to think creatively and improves problem-solving skills.



OUR AIM



Our aim is to use the outdoors for healthy child development, to create a natural play environment and to ensure children gain skills. We offer experiential learning that incorporate curriculum aligned with state standards to promote the development of critical thinking, literacy, and science knowledge through outdoor experiences. Youth learn best through hands-on experience, and the outdoors offers unlimited access to direct and engaging interaction with the world. **Learners will explore the conservancy using science, math, social studies, and art to learn about their place in the natural world. They will meet new friends, connect with adult mentors, and come out of their comfort zone.**

Your support can help our youth get out there and explore the world around them with our workshops and school programming.



Horse Whispers | postal P O Box 2149, Hazyview, 1242, South Africa
email. info@horsewhispers.co.za | web. www.horsewhispers.co.za | phone. 084 418 0079

LOCATION

The Nature center is strategically located so that people from the community can easily access the facility. It is on a 2000 Ha bushveld property with indigenous plants, birds, insects and small mammals. This land was part of the land redistribution policy in South Africa and is now owned by the Sandford Community Trust. There are different educational hiking trails that assist in teaching learners about nature in a fun way. Well-trained Horses that act as ambassadors for all mammals, who teach learners about animal care. We also wish to renovate one of the buildings to create a Youth's library and classroom and would like to built a playground.

PROGRAM

Horse and Animal Care

- Grooming and feeding animals teaches compassion and empathy.
- Riding a difficult obstacle course teaches frustration tolerance.
- Drill teams encourage communication and perspective taking.
- Leading a horse teaches respect and nonverbal communication.

Nature Activities

- Discovery hikes encourage risk taking and self-reliance.
- Gathering natural plants highlights our connection to nature.
- Identifying animal tracks, tree and plant species allows for the sharing of knowledge.

Adventure Games

- Guiding a partner through a nature trustwalk shows leadership.
- Participating in treasure hunts teaches persistence in achieving goals.
- Doing chores around the farm facilitates teamwork and citizenship.

Art Activities

- Decorating a group mobile develops skills in compromise and negotiation.
- Writing a show fosters creativity and the sharing of ideas.
- Drawing a feeling map teaches emotional intelligence.
- Building a group clay sculpture fosters learning from mistakes.



ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

Achievement badges are awards earned by youth members of the The Nature Centre based on activities within an area of study by completing one of the nature centre's programs. The purpose of the badge program is inspire learners examine subjects to determine if they would like to further pursue them as a career or vocation. The award of a achievement badge is represented by circular patch with an image representing the badge's topic. **Learners can use the different studies and badges in their life portfolio.**

There are more than 50 different skills programs that we would like to offer –

Examples of programmes & badges:

1. Bird Studies
2. Plumbing
3. Arts & Crafts
4. Sports
5. Family life
6. Public Speaking



HOW IT WORKS.

Monday through Friday, the center houses tutoring programs helping learners from Grades 1-12. They learn to interact, resolve conflicts and share.

The center, open from 7 am until 4pm each day. **We will host weekly activities, and weekend workshops.** Once we've built a library, The learners will have access to the library and, as part of their tutoring, read books in small groups.

OUR STRATEGY FOR 2015 -2018

Get Funds to extent our the program
Scale up the number of youth we reach.
Empower the communities, especially educators, where our targeted youth live,
Train staff in youth education.
Improve our hiking trails with more educational tools such as informative sign boards
Built a playground
Built ablution blocks and renovate a building into a classroom and library.
Purchase educational materials.
Improve the office building, staff accommodation and stable yard.
Get the program verified by South African Qualifacation Authority (SAQA) unto a National Qualifacation.