

We Are Edu Fun!

Teaching English to Children in Diepsloot, South Africa

Edu Fun was established in 2003 as a non-profit organisation to partner with the Diepsloot Combined School (DCS) located in the informal settlement of Diepsloot, an economically disadvantaged informal settlement in Northern Johannesburg. Diepsloot is home to approximately 250,000-500,000 people many of whom live in shacks without electricity or indoor plumbing.



We are a volunteer led organisation and our mission is to improve English literacy for grade 2 and 3 students at DCS. English literacy is essential for the young learners at DCS to break the cycle of poverty. We also mend school uniforms, do health checks for students and provide support and financial assistance for learners from Diepsloot going on to University. In addition, Edu Fun is evolving to include students from non-fee paying schools in rural, urban and informal settlements outside of Diepsloot to address the varied educational, literacy and material needs of the population.

We utilise the Phono-Graphix method, a straightforward reading and spelling method developed in America in 1996. The method educates learners that letters are pictures of sounds, sounds can be represented by more than one letter or combinations of letters and that combinations of letters can also represent multiple sounds. Edu Fun volunteers are invited to attend Phono-Graphix training sessions throughout the year but anyone who is literate in English is encouraged to join us as a volunteer at DCS! Our efforts are making an impact! Last year student reading skills improved by 60% and spelling skills by 73%. Teachers at DCS are also trained in the Phono-Graphix method.

Donations

We rely 100% on donations to support our work. To donate via EFT, please use our bank details below and list the project you wish to support in the reference section.

Account Name: Edu Fun
FNB Bank Account No: 62242345438
Branch: Randburg, Code: 254005
PBO 930036948 069-772 - NPO

Donors can also donate online with a credit card through GlobalGiving. Donations are tax deductible in the USA and UK. Visit our online page at <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/teaching-africa-to-read>

Volunteering Opportunities:

Volunteers meet at the [Dainfern Valley Shopping Centre](#) at 8:30am every Monday and/or Tuesday during the school term and carpool to Diepsloot. Lessons are from 09:00-10:00am. All teaching materials are provided. Basic on-site training is given for new volunteers and quarterly workshops are offered.

Monday lessons are with Grade 2 learners who are grouped based on their English literacy. There is a lead teacher for each class responsible for lesson design and delivery. Each group has 30-45 children and a volunteer works with a group of about 6 to 8 children. The grade has over 200 learners and class sizes are usually very large, so these sessions are a great opportunity to give personalised attention.

Tuesday lessons are with learners from Grade 3. Volunteers work with 3 to 4 learners at a time in the library or container classroom. In addition, the learners who are the most proficient in English in Grade 3 receive English enrichment lessons led by Edu Fun volunteers to build upon their reading, writing, spelling and presentation skills.

Our Edu Fun Partner Projects



Our partner projects are varied but they all have a similar theme – each was developed to provide support and to remove barriers to education. If a learner is hungry he won't learn. If a learner has tattered clothing she may not be able to concentrate or may be teased by others. If a learner has a baby she is likely to drop out of school. If a learner can't see or hear or has an illness he won't reach his full potential. And, if a learner from DCS defies the odds and is accepted to university but she can't afford food, books, transport or airtime/data then she will be forced to leave school. All of our partner projects were created by Edu Fun volunteers who saw a need and took action.

Health

We provide health, eye and dental screenings to all students at the school. We meet every Tuesday at 8.00am at the Dainfern Valley Shopping Centre returning around 11.00am. It is not essential for volunteers to have medical training. During the screening, children are identified and referred to the appropriate professional for follow-up. For more information, please contact Michaela Paalen healthgroup@edufun.co.za

Food Pantry - Ngangifisa

The food pantry supports some of the most vulnerable and child headed households at Diepsloot Combined School. On the last Wednesday of every month 12 families are given a supply of groceries. Regular food donations of non-perishable items are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Contact Meghan on 0636720285 or ngangifisa@gmail.com

Top Up Mending

We mend school uniforms, provide students with the opportunity to swap uniforms and give students in need new uniforms for free or at a discounted cost. Students who would like to learn to sew are also encouraged to join the project. Volunteers are needed to assist with anything from sewing buttons to helping children line up to have their clothes mended. For more information, contact Karin 0769996986 or KarinBlomgren81@yahoo.co.uk

The Baby Club

We support young mums who are still in school with essentials such as nappies and baby formula as well as critical child care information, a clothing “swap shop” and assistance to allow the mums to stay in school and pass their matric exams. Contact Anthea anthea314@gmail.com.

Mentoring and Training

We offer mentoring and training to teachers at DCS and other schools. We also support past pupils from DCS who are now at university, helping them with clothing, course books and computer equipment as well as stipends for food and transport when funds allow.

Multi-purpose Hub

Edu Fun is working in partnership with the Rotary Club of Swindon in the UK and Rotary Club of Sandton in Johannesburg to build a multi-purpose hub within the school grounds to house all Edu Fun and partner project activities. This will assist in addressing the chronic lack of healthcare provision, including a sickbay with hospital bed and area for private counselling, a meeting room that will double up as a classroom, a storeroom and an office for coordinating the daily activities taking place in the hub. This new resource will serve as a base in which the school's Learner Support team can work closely with volunteers, other NGOs and local healthcare professionals to address the wide range of problems currently adversely affecting the wellbeing of children attending DCS.

Contact Jenny for information about teaching, mentoring and training and any other general queries relating to Edu Fun, the work that we do in Diepsloot as well as how this work is being replicated in other communities. Call 082 322 0608 or Email info@edufunsa.co.za or visit our Facebook page [EduFunSA](https://www.facebook.com/EduFunSA).

Updated May 2019