



January 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to the January edition of the preschool theme newsletter. Welcome back to school and another year of happy teaching.



What's new!

A new theme book on Space is available with Dangers/safety under construction. **A new web site** is also under construction which will be updated monthly with the free preschool theme newsletter. This should be up and running hopefully by the end of February.

Some of you are not aware that I send out a free monthly newsletter filled with ideas, thoughts and activities to implement in your schools. I am teaching all the age groups as a reliever at a semi-rural ELC in New Zealand and I include photographs of the many activities I implement. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please send me a return mail asking for the newsletter and I will add you to the mailing list.

CAPS – Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement

The CAPS policy will be implemented as of 2012 for Grade R. Many of you may be asking if the theme books will still be relevant to use.

The answer is clearly a definite YES and in many ways even more so than before

In the CAPS document I am pleased to say they have changed the Grade R programme to be much closer to the typical daily programme used by most preschools, ELC and day care centres.

Ring times (lessons), the free play areas, activities for outdoors including sand and water play have all been given the importance they deserve.

The learning areas and learning outcomes are still valid, but you will have to use the new terminology when you do your lesson plans.

Perceptual skills

Perceptual skills underpin all school readiness. The CAPS document returns the focus to these perceptual skills. In the theme manuals many of

the lessons, games and activities reinforce the perceptual skills in a fun way through play.

New 'outcomes'

The extensive and rather cumbersome outcomes and assessment of the NCS has been replaced with simpler and fewer outcomes. In essence they are very similar to the ones we were using especially the languages and mathematics subjects, but some have been rearranged and regrouped to be more logical.

All the activities and lessons in the theme books achieve these new skills.

Life Skills Topics

The subject Life Skills has been regrouped into Beginning knowledge and Personal and Social Well-being and are taught through topics

In the CAPS document the suggested topics have been included as a guide and the document states that you may choose to use other topics/themes as you feel are relevant to your learners.

Almost all the suggested topics are available as theme manuals.

I have noted some topics that I have not written and will endeavour to write them this year. These are books, safety, jobs and weather.

Price increase

The cost of printing has increased so the price of the theme books will be increasing. I have kept this increase as low as possible and each theme will go up to R40 per theme. The postage costs have to be increased too.

This increase will only be effective from 1 February to give you an opportunity to still purchase the books at the existing price. I have included an order form for your convenience.

Regards
Karin