

## Learning Gains through Play



### KZN Teachers Module 4, Learning Stations Report

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March KZN Learning Gains grade R and 1 teachers gathered at Thembelihle Primary School in Howick for their Module 4 Workshop. Nineteen teachers attended instead of 22; those who were absent were Linda Zuma, Buselaphi Shelembe and Chonco Thokozile.

The main facilitator for the workshop was Mrs Hlengiwe Mfeka, assisted by Senzo Ngcobo. Some teachers arrived as early as 12:50 they were asked to help themselves to the packed lunch which had been organised because there would be no time set aside to eat once the workshop started.

Mrs Mfeka started the workshop by asking the teachers to reflect on the previous module, Role Play. Some of the reflective questions were: *What worked in the classroom and what didn't, How did you use the Role Play in class, How can Role Play support 21 Century Skills?* They used their Memoirs app as usual and they opened this app with ease. Some responses: *I was able to send my role play video using YouTube, kids were creative and collaborative.* Mrs Mfeka also spoke about the Microsoft Road Show in Durban next week and that we will need some teachers to present for 5mins about the Xbox. She also spoke about the SchoolNet Conference and that some of them will also present about tablets apps and Xbox.



Above: Teachers freely reflecting using their Memoires App

The structure of the learning stations model and each learning station was briefly explained. There were only 4 learning stations and 4 groups consisting of 4 or 5 members. The first round started, and they were given 25 minutes just for them settle and familiarise themselves with this strategy. After the first round, time was reduced to 15 minutes. They were instructed to use their own tablets since they had SD cards in their tablets with all the modules and resources. Their resources did not have the Amelia lite. Fortunately the facilitators had discovered this in time and had blue toothed this app to some of the teachers who had arrived earlier.

### **Learning Stations**

It became very clear during this training session that these teachers have been empowered; they hardly ever asked questions or had queries for the facilitators, they read the instructions on each station and did their best to produce what was expected of them.

They loved Learning Station D the most as always, a water pump video. Some of them did not get the water pump right at first, just like the ladies below. As a result, their pumps did not work as expected, nobody told them to go back and replay the video. They were excited when it eventually worked.





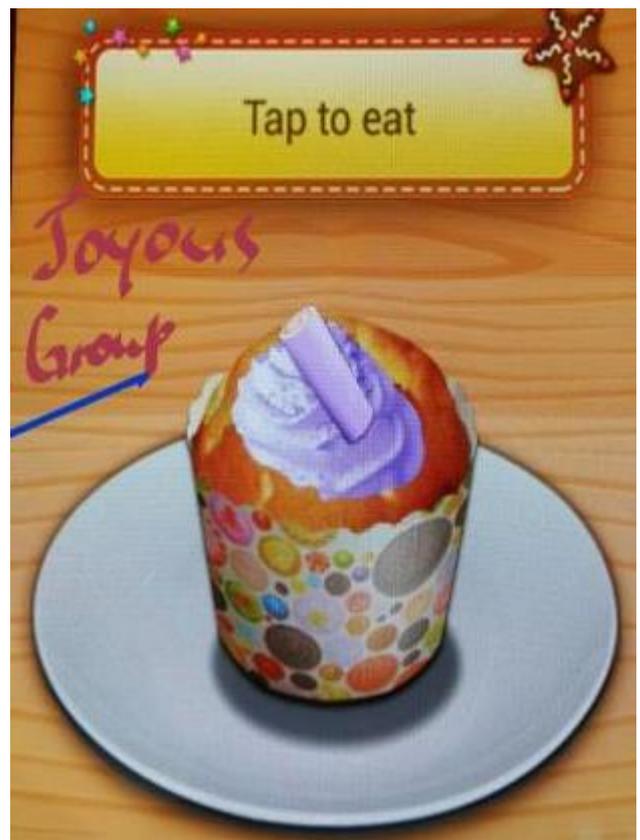
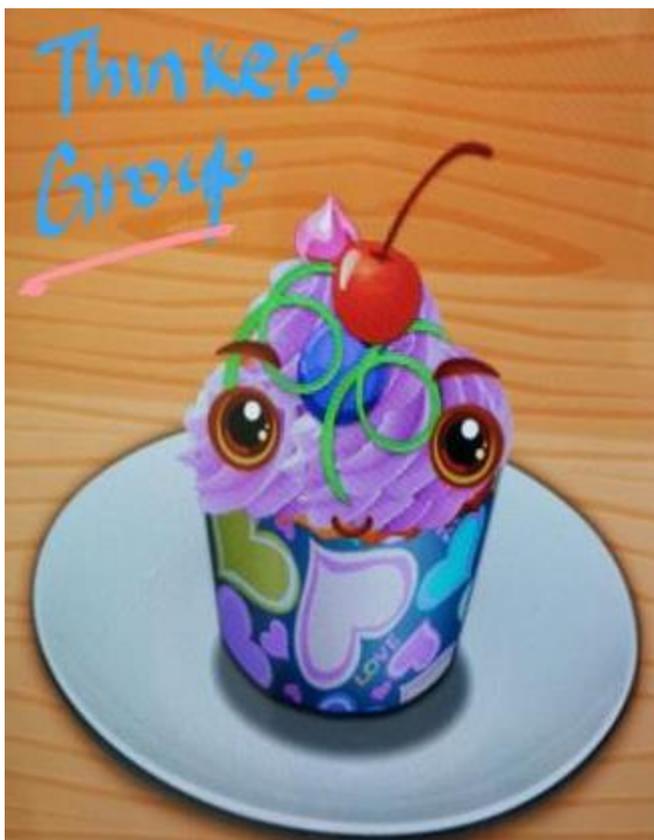
They also loved Origami and they did very well in this station, it was not easy to choose the winning team. They had all produced great stuff:

They also loved Station D, Simulations. They had fun in doing the cupcake activity and they said the cupcake app was integrating a number of Learning Areas.

They noted that there was measurements, English language verbs (stir, pour) and that the learners were learning a lot while having fun.



Above: With Nokuthula Zondi's tongue out, wasn't she thinking that was a real cake?



Above: Judging from the above creations, one can tell these teachers are no longer the same as we met them last year in July. The winning cup cake is at the bottom, The Fantastics Group.



Above: Teamwork in Station B, Origami.

In conclusion, Hlengiwe asked them to think and discuss in their group how they would apply what they had learnt in their classrooms. They had been doing this as individuals in their recording grid after each station. Each group was given one of the learning stations activities and they presented afterwards. It was pleasing to listen to their presentations; most of them were very clear on how they would apply this in class. Jabu Mkhize's presentation was outstanding. Here is the link to the video of her presentation on the SchoolNet YouTube channel:

[https://youtu.be/j6l\\_4fDkeU0?list=UUMQUq-OFDOmmsadLBYwogFw](https://youtu.be/j6l_4fDkeU0?list=UUMQUq-OFDOmmsadLBYwogFw) we will place it on the Learning Gains website as soon as we can.

#### **Xbox Presentation in Durban:**

To make the presentation in Durban at the Microsoft Road Show we chose Nthabi Hlela, Joyce Ntuli, Thembi Maphumulo and Thabsile Nyide. Unfortunately, Nthabi has a commitment, but she will be part of the preparation; the others were free and willing to take part. Their principals have been briefed and they have agreed to release them early that day so they can travel to Durban.

#### **Catering**

Food was great, everybody loved it hence there were no left overs. Luckily Hlengiwe managed to secure one pack for our wonderful host principal, Mr Damon Shaw. He appreciated it; for it was a mouth-watering food pack.

In the end teachers were all very excited about this workshop and could see no reason why they might struggle to apply this strategy in class. Hlengiwe reminded them that badges were for individuals, even if they were sharing a classroom. They seemed to have accepted this principle, since no one complained or questioned that.

This was a very successful workshop. Hlengiwe was extremely well prepared and teachers commented on this in their evaluation forms.



*Above: It was fun observing them as they were hard at work in different learning stations. This is a great strategy if it is well planned.*

More photos of this workshop are viewable from this link

<https://picasaweb.google.com/114485521154323474375/20150318LearningGainsKZN>

Senzo Ngcobo

March 2015