



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG
South Africa

CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – A FLAGSHIP

Funda UJabule: A Primary School for
Teacher Education and Research



**The Future
Reimagined**



IN THE BEGINNING

The Department of Childhood Education at UJ was founded in 2010. In the same year the Funda Ujabule School was opened on the university's Soweto campus. Research for the programme is conducted in the Centre for Education Practice Research, close to the school.

In 2014 the Childhood Education programme area was awarded Flagship status by the University of Johannesburg.

In 2015 A South Africa Research Chair was awarded to the director of the research centre.

Cover photo: Nozipho Motolo of the South Africa Research Chair, administering a numeracy test with a grade 1 learner

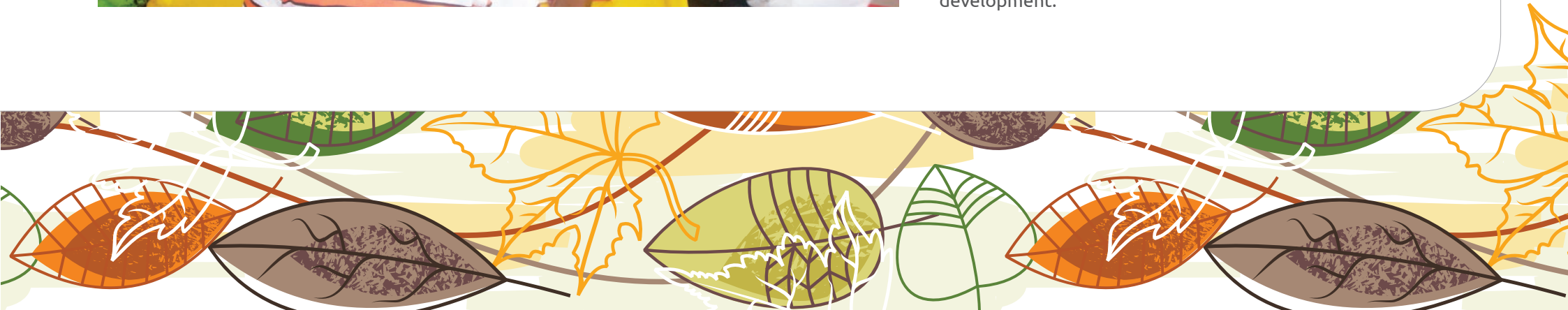


CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG CHARTING NEW TERRITORY



TEACHER PREPARATION COURSES FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Foundation phase education: preparing students to teach children from Grade R – Grade 3.
- Intermediate phase education: preparing students to teach Grade 4 – 6.
- The Funda UJabule primary school is a partner in the teacher education programmes.
- All students spend time in the school throughout their degree study.
- Students observe school life, learn to teach and learn to research children's learning and development.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE: THE DEVELOPING CHILD

The childhood education programmes share one guiding principle for teacher education and research: the developing child.

At the heart of teacher education, research, and all other initiatives in these programmes, the focus is on knowledge of children in contemporary South Africa.

Teachers are seen as a most important element of schools, classrooms and the country's education system. Not only are teachers required to know subject knowledge and methods of teaching and assessment, but they also need to know children. They have to know how to identify individual children's strengths and know how to assist children if they struggle.

The university founded the Funda UJabule School on its Soweto campus so that student teachers can observe how children develop over the years and how teachers adapt their work as children grow. A school on the campus is an ideal place to observe the national school curriculum in action over a few years as well. For students, it is also the ideal space to learn to conduct research. They can learn research methods to investigate classroom practices and how individual young learners come to grips with school life and the curriculum.



PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

Student teachers of Childhood Education study academic subjects such as Education Studies, English Language Studies, Teaching Studies, Mathematics, History and Geography, Science, Technology, Subject Didactics (Teaching Methodology and Practicum) and African Language Studies for isiZulu and Sesotho.



RESEARCH OF CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Childhood Education Flagship research focuses on child development and learning.

Current projects

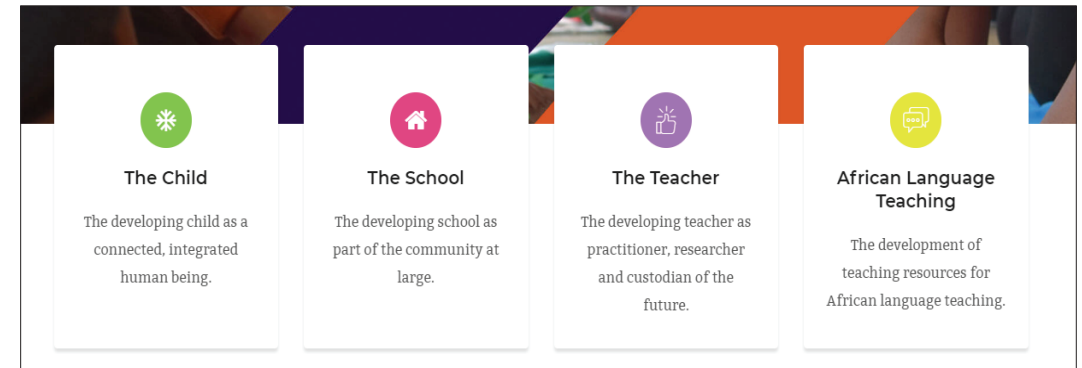
- Mathematics, arithmetical competence: standardised test development for Grade R and Grade 1
- Mathematical concept development
- Science concept development
- Reading and writing academic language
- Mathematical learning difficulties
- Remediation of reading difficulties
- Service in childhood education
- Teacher education and development for the primary school



Centre for African Language Teaching

The Centre for African Language Teaching (CALT @UJ) is embedded in the work of the well-established Childhood Education programme area and focuses on two languages – both offered in the Faculty's BEd in Foundation Phase (FP) Teaching and the BEd in Intermediate Phase (IP) Teaching, namely Sesotho and isiZulu. The main aim of CALT@UJ is to enable practice-based research and research-based practice in the education and development of teachers who teach African languages in the foundation phase and intermediate phase of schooling and who teach through the medium of African languages in the foundation phase of schooling. A secondary aim is to develop artefacts and materials in support of the development of the two African languages offered at the UJ Soweto campus, namely Sesotho and isiZulu.

Knowledge for action website



The **Knowledge for Action** website is aimed at providing actionable knowledge, in relation to the developing child, the teacher, the school, and African language teaching to enable research-informed decision making and teaching practice. This will include summaries of research findings with links to the research reports or journal articles, videos on topical issues, downloadable tools and lesson plans.

www.knowledgeforaction.co.za





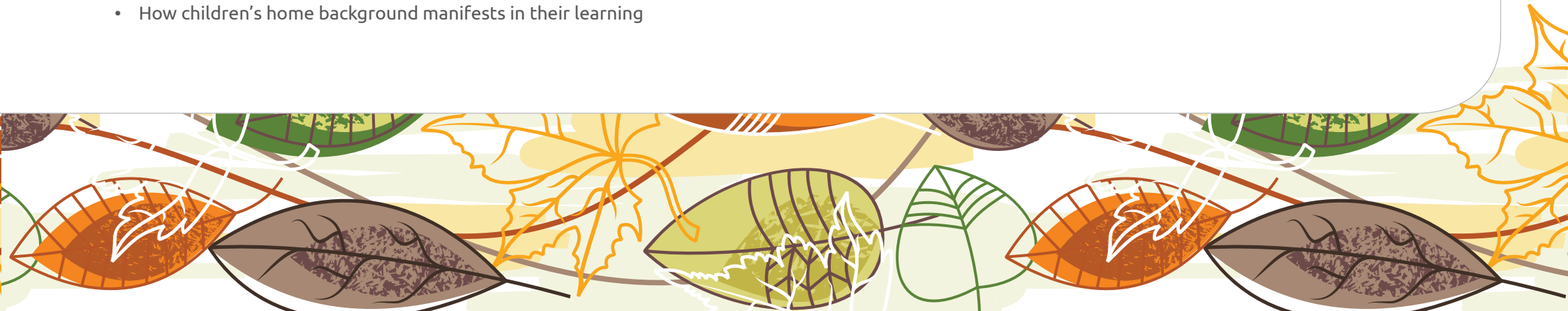
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES: Knowing the child to educate the child

BEd Foundation phase education

BEd Intermediate phase education

In these professional programmes students learn

- To teach children
- To be a teacher-researcher
- To work with the school curriculum
- How schools function
- How classrooms function
- How teachers collaborate
- How children's home background manifests in their learning





POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Childhood Education BEd (Hons)

MEd Childhood Education

Full dissertation studies in one of the research projects.

MEd coursework and short dissertation in Childhood Education.

PhD

Students are invited to study in the research projects.

Postdoctoral fellowships in the South Africa Research Chair.

UNIQUE STUDIES IN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN A LABORATORY SCHOOL

IsiZulu and Sesotho

Curriculum Leadership

Instructional films with a focus on concept development

#Taximaths: How children make their world mathematical

Taxiscience: How children learn to see their world scientifically

Remedial programmes for mathematics and reading in the primary school

Test development and standardization for maths in the foundation phase

Test development for academic language reading and writing in English

Book : Research on mathematics learning difficulties with leading South African and international scholars





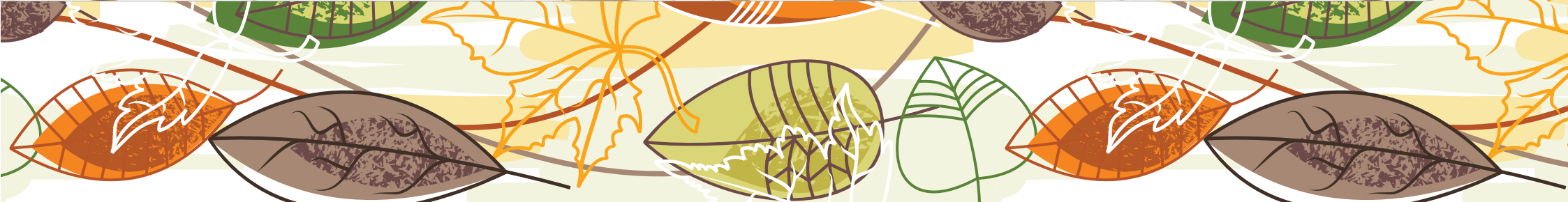
Fairy Elephant's Foot (*Frithia pulchra*)
The signature plant of the Childhood
Education Flagship

UNIQUE TEACHER EDUCATION IN A TEACHING SCHOOL

In a teaching school, where students see the practice side of their professional education, they also witness how schools are managed and what the demands of proper school administration are. At Funda UJabule School, which is a public school in the Gauteng Department of Education system, students see how

- Teachers interact with parents and form collaborative relationships
- Children learn to become 'little citizens' of the classroom where they are free to learn and express themselves, while respecting the social protocols
- Children who struggle receive attention from the support teams
- Teachers adapt and mold the curriculum to address the needs of individuals and groups
- Learn to learn in more than one language
- Assessed with both standardised tests and classroom assessment instruments
- The public school education operates in a province and in a school district







Faculty of Education: www.uj.ac.za/edu

Funda UJabule School: www.uj.ac.za/fundaujabule

Department of Childhood Education: <https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/facultyofeducation/DepartmentofChildhoodEducation>

Centre for Education Practice Research: www.uj.ac.za/cepr **Email:** cepr2@uj.ac.za

South African Journal of Childhood Education: www.sajce.co.za **Email:** submissions@aosis.co.za

South Africa Research Chair: "Integrated Studies of Learning Language, Science and Mathematics in the Primary School".

(National Research Foundation. Department of Science and Technology) **Email:** nmotolo@uj.ac.za

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