



By Kerry Mc Arthur, ECD Co-ordinator

Effective planning becomes effective teaching

Ezekiel 38:7 Preparing For Action

"Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them."

In the ECD environment it becomes all too easy to go with the flow of the classroom. While it is important to adjust our lessons or approach based on what happens in the active classroom, without a base which to work from, we won't have a direction in which to move.

Lesson plans are a motivator, as they provide a sense of accomplishment. Knowing that you have succeeded in your lesson will motivate

you to do better and better every day, so a good lesson plan is tangible evidence of a good lesson. There are so many teachers who battle with motivation, especially as in ECD it is difficult to assess how much a child actually retains or understands. However, by following a plan and then assessing the plan based on engagement and outcomes will provide an immediate motivation and create a sense of achievement.

Effective planning becomes effective teaching...

Children thrive on stability and structure. Without these they feel lost and uncertain, and you end up with a classroom full of children who are frustrated, anxious and ultimately seen to be behaving badly. This can be avoided to a large extent by starting off on the right foot.

A poorly prepared lesson runs the risk of becoming a poorly managed classroom. On the contrary, a well planned lesson may result in the outcome you need but at the same time can be adjusted easily depending on the needs of the class.

We are called to be prepared in order to prepare others, having a finish line or an outcome will help you know in which direction to pull.

A well prepared lesson is made of many different factors, which include:

- 1) Having an understanding of your audience (obviously this is easier within an established classroom);
- 2) What subject or lesson content is being taught;
- 3) What are children meant to take away with them at the end of the lesson?

These three points may seem completely obvious but a well planned lesson cannot work if only one or two points are absorbed. All three need to be used correctly to give you the result you need. There are

many other factors to be considered when planning and preparing. Take time to understand these, ask for help where needed, and spend time working on this skill.

Who are we to question whether planning is important? One of my favourite verses is from *Jeremiah 29:11* *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Even God plans for us; He has a plan for each of us; He knows where He wants us to be and what we are to achieve; He prepares and plans. Surely that is the example we should be following in everything we do, especially when we hold the responsibility of educating children.

