

KIRSTY PAXTON

Play & Education

“ I am a strategic programme designer, leader, and manager, inspired by my passion for the power of play and education to transform children’s lives. ”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SUMMARY)

- **RIGHT TO PLAY** (2018 - 2020)
Training & Capacity Building Manager
- Resource Development (Consultant)
- **EMBRACE (DG MURRAY TRUST)** (2017)
Kids @ The Centre Project Manager (Consultant)
- **THE LEGO FOUNDATION** (2014 – 2015)
ECD Training & Resources (Consultant)
- **AXIUM EDUCATION** (2013 – 2015)
Training, Careers & LEGO Program
- **JABULANI FOUNDATION** (2013 – 2015)
ECD Training & Play Program Manager
- **ARTEE PARTEEZ** (2007 - 2018)
Owner & Founder
- **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CT** (2008 – 2011)
Teacher
- **TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM** (2006 – 2007)
Play Centre Manager and Educator
- **NANSINDLELA SCHOOL** (2005)
Teacher

PUBLISHED WORKS

The Chalk Giraffe (Author)
Imaginary House (2018) / Capstone Press (2020)

EDUCATION

- **OISE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO** (2021)
Master’s in Education (4.0 GPA)
- **GIBS BUSINESS SCHOOL** (2014)
Social Entrepreneurship Program (SECP)
Magna Cum Laude
- **UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN** (2002)
Post-Graduate Certificate in Education
Summa Cum Laude
- **UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN** (2001)
Bachelor of Science

KEY STRENGTHS (STRENGTHS FINDER)



BASICS

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Languages: English (fluent), isiXhosa & Afrikaans (basic)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Further details)

• RIGHT TO PLAY (2018 – 2020)

Manager, Training & Capacity Building, Global

- Provision of expertise on playful learning in funding proposal development & project implementation
- Lead organizer of global training meeting of specialists from Middle East, Africa and Asia and monthly global training webinars
- Field experience in Rwanda, Ghana Mozambique including engagement on playful learning in ECD and education with MoE officials, partner NGO's and CBO's, university faculty and school leaders
- Delivery of in-country Training of Trainers
- Leadership of global resource development, including:
 - Digital video resources on playful literacy and numeracy learning
 - *Psychosocial Wellbeing Through Play*
 - *School Leadership Training*
 - *Reading Through Play Training Manual & Teacher's Handbook* (for ECD & primary)
 - *Reading Club Facilitator's Guide*

• Resource Development (Consultant)

- Lead writer and developer of *Teaching & Learning Materials for Play-Based Learning* handbook for use in Mozambique, Rwanda and Ghana

• EMBRACE (2017)

Kids @The Centre Project Manager (Consultant)

- Manager of key campaign event - Kids @ The Centre - for Embrace (a project of the DG Murray Trust in South Africa) in celebration of Universal Children's Day
- Worked closely with 15-20 government and non-profit partners in Cape Town (e.g. Smartstart, Department of Health, REACH, SAEP, Na'libali), including forming relationships with a number of new partners

The event was attended by an estimated 6,000 children and parents from a diverse cross-section of communities from around the city and included a range of play activations such as storytelling, reading, science, LEGO, art and a child-led radio broadcast and voting station.

• THE LEGO FOUNDATION (2015 – 2016)

ECD Training & Resources (Consultant)

- Provision of training in use of DUPLO play boxes with early childhood facilitators, teachers and occupational therapists in South Africa
- Writer and designer of primary teacher's resources in playful approaches to literacy, numeracy, life skills & technology for use with LEGO Foundation play boxes in South Africa. A portion of the content developed was also included in the LEGO Foundation's global play box resources.
- Led piloting of these resources with teachers in schools and non-profits in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape provinces in South Africa.

• AXIUM EDUCATION (2013 – 2015)

Training, Careers & LEGO Program

Axiom Education is a non-profit organisation based in the rural Eastern Cape in South Africa. Axiom works with rural students, teachers and schools to facilitate school improvement.

Responsibilities included:

- Provision of reading club facilitator training in playful approaches to literacy learning
- Led introduction of playful learning with LEGO play boxes in literacy and numeracy (including development of playful learning resources for use with donated LEGO play boxes)
- Led career guidance portfolio
- Co-founder of Jumpstart bridging program

• JABULANI FOUNDATION (2013 – 2015)

ECD Training & Play Program Manager

The Jabulani Rural Health Foundation is a non-profit organisation working closely with Axiom Education in the same region, with a focus on early childhood development and health care.

Work with Jabulani included:

- Founding and running *Zithudlala*, an after-school educational play program
- Running weekly training sessions for ECD facilitators in play-based learning using recycled materials and LEGO
- Writing and developing ECD teacher resources
- Managing the community library

• ARTEE PARTEEZ (2007 - 2018)

Owner & Founder

- Owner and founder of Artee Parteez, a children's events company specializing in playful educational experiences using art, science, puppets and LEGO
- Artee Parteez has run over a thousand parties in Cape Town and Johannesburg and ten kids' clubs for top tier hotels in South Africa
- Until Covid-19, Artee Parteez was the largest provider of LEGO parties in South Africa and our parties regularly received positive feedback from clients for their creativity
- Since 2018, the business has been run by a capable team in South Africa, leaving me free to pursue full-time work in the NGO sector

• INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CT (2008 – 2011)

Teacher

- Year 3-9 Design & Technology, Mathematics and Art teacher in a part-time capacity at a private school in Cape Town

• TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM (2006 – 2007)

Play Centre Manager

Responsibilities included:

- Developing and teaching a playful environmental education curriculum and resources for kindergarten and Grade 1 -2 children
- Running the children's play centre
- Writing and performing puppet shows for visiting school groups
- Managing and training staff
- Developing ocean-themed playful learning activities for visitors

• NANSINDLELA SCHOOL (2005)

Teacher

- Grade 5 & 6 Life Skills, Social Sciences and English teacher at a primary school in a rural area in northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

REFERENCES

Andrea Diaz-Varela: Global Education Technical Lead, Right To Play

Julie Mentor: Project Leader, Embrace (DGMT)

John Young: Executive Director, Jabulani Foundation