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.

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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)
Imagnary 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

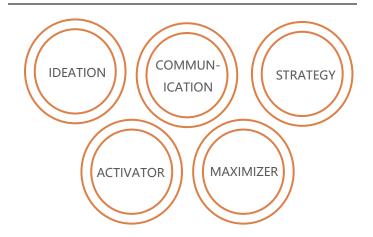
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (2002)

Post-Graduate Certificate in Education Summa Cum Laude

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (2001)

Bachelor of Science

KEY STRENGTHS (STRENGTHS FINDER)



BASICS

Age: 41 Nationality: Canadian / South African

Email: kirstylouisepaxton@gmail.com

Phone: +1 647 355 6260 / +27 84 207 0180

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
- o 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 nonprofit 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

Axium Education is a non-profit organisation based in the rural Eastern Cape in South Africa. Axium 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 Axium 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 fulltime 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