

AJUGA

Fire-resistant learning centres for children

ABOUT

The Ajuga initiative has been established to address the need for our children to access education through our Early Childhood Development Centre infrastructures.

Our impact ties into the First 1000 Days of a child, the time during which their ability to learn, grow and thrive can be profoundly affected by the quality of the care, nutrition and education they receive. Poor school performance and a diminished capacity to learn would not only affect a child's own future, but also have an economic effect on the nation as a whole, because of poor productivity and later healthcare costs.

A child's ability to learn, grow and thrive can be profoundly affected by the quality of the care and the nutrition it receives during the first few years of life. There are approximately 19 971 ECD centres nationwide, only half of which are formally registered. Of these registered and unregistered centres, more than 17% are operated from a house or part of a house, including a garage, and 10% operate from a shack. Additionally, over a quarter of early childhood practitioners that run these centres have not completed Matric.

Our hope and vision for communities is to further build towards the matric pass rate, which provincially is currently at 78.6%, down from 79%. The long-term benefits will see significant social, education and economic returns to society.



QUICK FACTS

Children who get a "Healthy Start to Life" in the 1st 1000 days and beyond are

- 10 times more likely to overcome life threatening childhood diseases
- More likely to complete nearly five more grades in school
- More likely to go on to earn 21% more in wages as adults
- More likely to have healthier families of their own

Alignment to 2030 plan:

- Make early childhood development a top priority
- To ensure that all children have at least 2 years of pre-school education, nutrition and healthcare
- All children should enjoy services and benefits aimed at facilitating access to nutrition, health care, education, social care and safety.
- Address problems such as hunger, malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies that affect physical growth and cognitive development, especially among children.