



Who are we?

We are a community-based organisation founded in 2013 who support children with disabilities and barriers to learning under the age of 7 within rural communities in the UGU District, KwaZulu-Natal.

Our team of Siyasizas (translated from isiZulu 'We Support'):

- Support children with disabilities and barriers to learning so they can reach their full potential
- Prevent children from falling behind due to lack of stimulation and learning

To see inclusive communities where children 0-7years are given equal opportunity to learn.

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like more information about our programmes, would like to partner with us or for donations please get in touch

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**Inclusive learning
programmes for children from
0 - 7, within rural South
Africa.**

www.siyakwazi.org



Our impact

Zothani was first identified by Siyakwazi in 2017. Zothani is a child with Down Syndrome and has been attending Woza Entokozweni Creche.

Through Siyakwazi's support and the implementation of the programmes, Zothani has had the opportunity to be included amongst his peers successfully, has strengthened weak muscles supporting his movement, knows how to use writing tools and communicates more effectively. He loves to help his friends with their work. "The other children at the creche have learnt to understand the way Zothani communicates even though is unable to speak clearly all the time. He has made a lot of friends."



Why does it matter?

An estimated half a million children with disabilities in South Africa have been shut out of South Africa's education system. Research also shows us that the most critical period for brain development is the first 1000 days of a child's life.

Although Government has prioritised ECD and disability in education very little is being done on the ground to support this.



What do we do?

SCHOOL READINESS

We support ECD centres to strengthen early learning and work to improve the transition from ECD into formal schooling. Within schools we identify children at risk of falling behind and implement catch up interventions. Through community outreach we equip parents and caregivers to support children's development at home.

INCLUSION

We work towards inclusion of children with disabilities within ECD centres and schools. For children with severe disabilities where school is inaccessible, we support parents and caregivers to provide adequate care and stimulation at home. We also raise awareness about the rights of children with disabilities within the wider community.