



*a chance to play*



**south africa**

**Success Stories**  
Promoting a child's right to play

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

This booklet shares the journey that has been travelled by Southern African countries to ensure that play is given the recognition it deserves and sharing some of its best practices in play.

The right of children to play is very critical, yet it can be oversimplified by people who may regard play as less important. I explained our work at ACTPSA to someone whose response was that, the world has many burning issues such as poverty, infectious diseases and wars that continue to claim many innocent children's lives. Therefore, issues of play are very peripheral.

Whilst I agree that the world has many significant issues, it is my hope that the stories and experiences narrated in this booklet may change people's perception of play. Play is an indispensable part of human life, to the extent that when we cease to play, then those burning issues of the world will consume the world faster and the outcome can only lead to disaster

It is of grave concern that, for some children, playing is risky because they find themselves in conditions that are unfriendly and unsafe. In these cases, ACTPSA has ventured into capacity-building to encourage and train some community leaders to become involved in facilitating the right of children to play.

It is my hope that issues captured and discussed in this booklet summarise the importance and benefits of play and that relevant authorities would be in a position to understand and support play initiatives.

Regina Mandikonza

ACTPSA Coordinator



*(Incorporating board games such as Scrabble into Play)*

## **1. INTRODUCTION: The Children’s Right to Play**

Play is defined as “a process encompassing children’s behaviour, which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated.”<sup>1</sup> Technology has brought new forms of play but it is also diminishing the time children spend enjoying physical play, exploration, discovery and interaction with peers, Play has become an endangered species.

Both privileged and under-privileged communities are struggling to provide their children with enough forms of safe and free play experiences. Some children are locked into tight schedules of school and extra tuition, and others are required to do chores at home which reduce the free time available for play. Parents may be over-emphasising the importance of the academic aspect of school and see play as a luxury. Play has fundamental benefits to the physical, social cognitive, emotional, and therefore holistic development of a child.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31, states that, “Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity”.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.chwaraeplant.org.uk/what-is-Play>

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Article 12 states that, “Children have a right to play and to participate fully in cultural and artistic life”

The above Articles have been ratified by many Governments who signed these two documents as legal obligations. This clearly shows that the Right to Play is supported at an international and regional level but the reality is that it should be taken seriously at government levels especially by local government and communities

## 2. Launching of the A Chance to Play Coalition

A Chance to Play Southern Africa was launched in October 2012 at the end of a 3 day Strategic Planning Conference involving 15 organisations from 6 countries in Southern Africa. Representatives from Namibia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa were for the first time able to discuss how they were promoting play in their home countries, and additionally to strategise about future play advocacy approaches at local, national and regional levels. Funding from *terre des hommes Germany* supported both the conference and the launch itself. After the launching, chapters were formed in the different Southern African countries by different working groups who now are meeting regularly to promote the Right to Play.



***Games involving singing and movement are popular in Southern Africa***

Children need the  
freedom and  
time to play.  
Play is not a luxury.  
Play is a necessity.  
Kay Redfield Jamison

### 3. ACTPSA ACHIEVEMENTS

#### A) ACCESS TO PLAY THROUGH ADVOCACY



ACTPSA at work (Mozambique)



(Zimbabwe)

#### WHY MUST WE PROMOTE PLAY?

Advocating for the Child’s Right to Play is the most important work of ACTPSA, and its collaboration and partnership with other organisations promoting play make a significant contribution to “keeping play on everyone’s agenda.”

Play in our modern world is becoming an endangered species, and is under threat everywhere. Poor socio- economic and socio- political conditions can affect the lives of children so negatively that they are unable to go through the normal stages of development.

Technology brings new forms of play but it is also diminishing the time children spend enjoying physical play, exploration, discovery and interaction with peers.

Cramped living conditions with few safe spaces for play can result in children playing in dangerous environments. Bored children and youth without access to safe and resourced places to play may get involved in behaviours which endanger themselves and others. Busy, stressed, and tired adults may be unable or unwilling to have quality play time with their children, and may not be able to supervise where their children play, or get involved in community attempts to create good places for play.

## Regional Play Conference



***Delegates making Toys during the Regional Play Conference***

The first ever Southern Africa Play Conference was hosted by Cotlands in partnership with ACTPSA with the support of *terre des hommes* from the 12-16 of May 2014. 56 delegates attended from various Southern African organisations. It was aimed at increasing an understanding of the importance of play, providing evidence supporting the importance of play and strategies that promote and stimulate safe play as an essential right towards the holistic development of children. A common understanding on the focus and strategy of work of the entire Southern African region for the next three years was agreed on which led to the development of a joint advocacy plan on the Right to Play. ACTPSA is responsible for the actualization and implementation of this plan and is focused on this going forward.

Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are already implementing the ACTPSA advocacy strategy with the formation of committees that ensure that communities, civil society and the government understand the importance of Play.



***(To be able to facilitate play adults must experience play themselves) Play during the Regional Play Conference: South Africa***

### **A Chance to Play Southern Africa's Advocacy Strategy**

The advocacy strategy was formulated at the Regional Play Conference held in May 2014. The main objective of the Play Advocacy Strategy is to: Page | 9

- Promote the value and importance of play and recreation activities for children at all levels of society.
- Increase play opportunities at local community level by promoting access to play models and safe play spaces.
- To enable the government to uphold the provisions in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC) and Article 12 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACRWC).

Four committees have been formed to enable the implementation of this strategy and these are:

- Media: responsible for designing a media campaign that educates the general public.
- Research: responsible for providing evidence on the importance of play
- Play Forum: responsible for encouraging members to form Play Forums
- Government Advocacy Committees: responsible for engaging with national, provincial and local government officials with the aim to fund and implement play opportunities that will meet the requirements of Articles 31 UNCRC and 12 ACRWC.



***(Children playing hockey at a preschool)***

## **World Play Day (WPD)**

We fully promote **World Play Day (28 May)** as an opportunity to hold Play Sessions to increase children's access to play and advocate for play. World Play Day is a day that is celebrated throughout the world by more than 30 countries as a day where adults and children relax and interact with each other through playing in their own spaces such as at home, at school or even at one's workplace. It was founded by Dr Fred Kim and she chose the day as the 28th May and now it is recognised on UNICEF'S calendar in South Africa



*(Children dancing during the World Play Day)*

This day is also used as an awareness day for promoting the Right to Play together with relevant stakeholders. To date, World Play Day is commemorated within Southern Africa with more than 10 000 children participating.

## **B) INCREASING ACCESS TO PLAY THROUGH TRAINING**



*(Adult Play Facilitation Training: Zimbabwe)*

## Capacity Building through Training

Capacity Building involves training organisations and individuals in the facilitation of play. There are 3 types of training that are offered by A Chance to Play Southern Africa:

- **Master Trainer Play Facilitation Training:** This involves training Play Facilitators to train others (train the trainer).
- **Adult Play Facilitation Training:** Training on facilitating play for children of all ages offered to those who work directly with children, for example early childhood practitioners, teachers, caregivers, and parents.
- **Youth Play Facilitation Training:** Youth are trained to run Play Campaigns, to form Play Clubs and to become Play Facilitators within selected communities and schools.

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The “A Chance to Play” Training enables and equips “would-be” play leaders (both within organizations and individuals) to start and run ongoing play sessions and programmes and thus become Ambassadors for Play. Our training helps play leaders to

- The importance and value of play so as to encourage Play Ambassadors
- Initiate, provide and manage appropriate play programmes for groups of children
- Supervise children to ensure safe play where no facilities available encourage the making & improvisation of play equipment and keeping all play equipment in good order
- Encourage young people to establish play clubs
- Recognise the need to advocate & create safe play spaces

The project produced a training manual that was authored by *Woz’obona* and the Children’s Rights Centre. Hundreds of ACTP manuals are being used by communities in Southern Africa and borders beyond. For instance, Brazil has adopted the training manual and has translated it into Portuguese. Many community organisations in Southern Africa and borders beyond are using this manual as it explains the importance of play, gives ideas for games that can be played by different age groups as well as traditional games, and through these experiences the lives of children are being transformed positively.



**( Children enjoying the photos in the ACTP Manual)**

Currently the organisation has trained Play Facilitators from 50 organisations, thereby reaching thousand beneficiaries. Feedback from members highlighted that trained Play Facilitators are now better equipped in enabling play in different scenarios including playing with children who are mentally and physically challenged. A great difference has also been noted in Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique where more than 50 Early Childhood Development teachers, who received the ACTP training. Children whose teachers were trained as Play Facilitators are more stimulated and benefit from the play opportunities compared to those who were deprived of this positive experience.

### **Youth Facilitators Training**



**(Youth Play Facilitation :South Africa)**

The Youth Facilitators' training is a regional project supported by *terre des hommes* to equip and train young people who have passion to promote play to children. In April 2014; twenty six youths received training designed to equip them with play facilitation skills as well as enabling them to

promote play in their communities by forming Play Clubs.13 Play clubs have been created and they are running throughout the region even though some have more challenges than the others. We are happy to report that every organisation did establish a Play Club. Our intention is forming more clubs and training more youth to be play ambassadors

### **C) STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

ACTPSA's stakeholders have had a positive impact on the organisation's goals and mission. Partners have also added value to its operations through participating in training and giving the head office feedback on the impact of play in their various organisations. ACTPSA participated in the United Nation's launch in September 2013 of the General Comment on UNCRC Article 31. The coalition is now affiliated to the International Play Association (IPA). Being part of the IPA has been a great success in the sense that ACTPA is able to influence policies with regards to the rights of children at international level as well as being able to network with different international organisations. Through networking with other partners, the coalition has increased to more than 20 members in 2014.

#### **A Chance to Play Southern Africa in partnership with Brazil**



***(South African ACTPSA delegates at the launch of ACTP in Brazil)***

In January 2013, ACPTSA went to Brazil to share experiences on the S.A. model which was put into place in 2010 that is, play with a particular focus on protecting children when hosting mega games such as the World Cup. A delegation of 3 adults and 5 youth had an opportunity to share South African experiences and the impact of the play programme on children, with their counterparts in Brazil.

Sinethemba is a teenager and a representative of the Play Beneficiary Programme under the Johannesburg Child Welfare (ACTPSA partner), Lucy Thornton who acted as chaperone for the Brazil visit interviewed Sinethemba. She highlighted how the exchange programme enabled her to learn more about challenges that are faced by young people in other countries and how play has contributed positively in their lives. She also gained confidence by participating in various play

activities in Brazil. A chance to play manual was translated into Portuguese to use in Brazil and the Portuguese speaking countries.

#### D) PROMOTING IMPROVED ACCESS TO PLAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN



*(Children participating in dramatic play acting drama at Girls Shelter : Johannesburg)*

ACTPSA encourages individuals and organisations to affiliate with us thereby broadening the ACTPSA coalition. These partners are encouraged **to integrate play into their existing programmes**. The various play initiatives are shared via our Newsletter both as a means to recognise the efforts of our partners and to motivate others to continue with their play initiatives.

One of our most exciting activities was the training of 25 **Youth Play Facilitators, representing 13 organisations** that were tasked with starting **Play Clubs** in their communities. We are happy to report that every organisation that was trained did establish a play club.

#### Play Clubs





*( Playing with newspapers : Oosterland Port Elizaberth South Africa)*

Research has shown that some of the children who are under achieving at school due to poor pre-school stimulation have shown that play in Play Clubs has actually assisted them to do better in school. Most of the games that are in the ACTP manual are played and incorporated into the after school and holiday programmes. The children are stimulated and have enjoyed these play activities to the extent that children are sharing games with their peers. This has had a positive impact in their holistic development and wellbeing.

ACTPSA facilitated the establishment of a **Play Forum** for the Inner City of Johannesburg. The Play Forum will eventually include organisations, individuals, local government departments and businesses in the area. This pilot project aims to

- map out the play spaces currently available to children in this “at risk” area
- consult with children about the play opportunities they would like to have
- Create plans to increase play provision in the area

Where possible, in support of member organisations, ACTPSA runs **Play Sessions** at relevant events. For example, we initiated the playing of indigenous games in support of the Gauteng Alliance for Street Children on Heritage Day 2014.



#### **4. The Positive IMPACT OF PLAY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA-STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS**

This section contains stories that have been shared by our members. The stories describe how play has impacted in their communities and changed lives of children.

## United Through Sport-South Africa



***(Participating in big sporting events in Port Elizabeth: South Africa)***

**United Through Sport** is one of our founding members in Port Elizabeth in South Africa. Using sport, they have enabled children to improve areas of health, emotional wellbeing and key life skills such as team work, leadership, decision making, and communication.

Nompumelelo's (Mpumi) (not her real name) life is changed through this programme. Mpumi's Story

*"Mpumi is like many children we meet in the Soccer Fun Bus Programme - she is an orphan having lost both parents to AIDS. She is now brought up by her grandparents, neither of whom are working and only survive on pension grants. She lives in a house with 5 other siblings and cousins relying on income from grants*

*As a result of her leadership qualities and her sporting ability she gained through our programme, Mpumi was selected as part of our girls' Tag Rugby team; she participated in a sports and cultural tour to the UK in October 2013. She stayed with a host family who recognised her qualities and decided to support her to go further in the programme. Mpumi has the kind of attitude that will take her far in life and she is already hoping to study law at University to reach her dream of becoming a Magistrate".*



***(Children playing netball at MASO)***

**Midlands Aids Service Organisation (MASO)** is a registered non-governmental organization. Its operations cover the entire Midlands Province in Zimbabwe

MASO's approach to promoting play has been working with Orphans and Vulnerable Children, especially orphans who missed out on the opportunity to play. The organisation focuses on promoting both indigenous games and other modern games. The children are organised in social clubs where they meet during their own free time and engage in play facilitated by the community volunteers who act as Play Facilitators. The Orphans and Vulnerable Childrens' (OVCs) are free to choose games they want to play. The other platforms where children get opportunities to play are when they gather for children's rights workshops and during community based camps. They use the A Chance to Play Manual as a guide.

"This Play Programme has been therapeutic and beneficial to many of the OVCs who were at first quiet and shy and who before did not interact with other children. Now they have become active participants in the games and sporting activities and laugh, exercise and, are part of a team. Through play they have received Psycho Social Support." Reports by community volunteers show that children always look forward to their play activities



***(Children playing at Kanimambo's playground)***

The association's main focus is on Children's Rights and Youth Skills Training. They also implement the *A Chance to Play* programme. In the organisation's premises they have a beautiful playground where children play. Below is a story of Luciana, whose life has been transformed through play at Kanimambo

*"Luciana is a 14 year old girl and she lost both her parents. Her maternal grandmother is looking after her. She stays with her two siblings and four cousins. She was enrolled at Kanimambo when she was eight years soon after she lost her mother. When she came to the organisation, she used to be a shy and reserved child however, due to her interaction through play and counselling; she became more assertive and now participates in school activities. In her own words, she said "Eu gostei de jogar no campo de jogos com os meus amigos porque isso me faz esquecer minhas preocupações" (I enjoyed playing in the playground with my friends and it takes my worries away).*

*Mr Arlindo Novele, who is their Play Facilitator, also noticed how A Chance to Play programme helped Luciana. He highlighted that she used to come to school late and in a bad mood however, when she started playing with other children her anger issues were resolved. She now comes to school early because she wants to play before classes begin. She attributes her confidence to play. Her favourite game is hopscotch and she has also enrolled in dress making classes. Her grandmother is also grateful to the programme because she indicated that, "she has changed a lot and now behaves well."*



***(Children playing with nature at Ububele: South Africa)***

**Ububele Educational and Psychotherapy Trust** 's mission is to have a positive impact on the mental health of disadvantaged South Africans through the development and dissemination of training programmes which focus on early childhood and experiential group work.

*“With our special focus on children, Play and Play Therapy, which is the central focus of our work with children, both within the daily timetable of our preschool as well as in our work with children referred to our Psychotherapy and Assessment Clinic. We incorporate free play in the daily timetable of our preschool as we believe that play which is unstructured is a central component of healthy emotional and physical development as well as social integration. Play therapy is used by our clinical staff in order to assist children in the resolution of internal conflicts and anxieties with great success. We also provide a space called “special time” where our children are given the attention of an interested adult while they play. This experience is provided by volunteers and staff who give the child an experience of being held in a person’s mind, a person who is fully engaged with and attentive to this child . Play is a child’s most natural vehicle of emotional expression.*

*Our teaching staffs are trained to run Persona-Doll groups, and such groups are run with our preschool children with the goal of increasing their emotional literacy. We also encourage the parents of our preschool children to play with their children because during this special time together, a stronger emotional connection between parent and child can be facilitated.*

*Play is vital for any developing mind. It is through Play that children are able to learn about themselves, their peers, and the world”*

**Jo’burg Child Welfare (JCW) - Johannesburg South Africa**



***(Anthony Playing at Thembaletu)***

**Jo'burg Child Welfare** provides direct services to children aged 0 – 18 and is one of the founding members of A Chance to Play programme. Through its Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Forum, they assist community based organisations to provide services to disadvantaged children within the communities they serve.

Below is a story of how one of the JCW youth who lives in the inner city has been transformed through Playing Soccer. He joined JCW Thembaletu Centre when he was in grade 8 in 2011 and now he is doing matric.

*“Anthony Mnguni lives in a flat just opposite the Drill Hall surrounded by the inner city’s taxi rank. He played for our under 17 soccer team as a committed and passionate “defender”. Through his determination, he is now playing for a Castle Lager team named Old Parks. At Thembaletu he has taken the coaching position for our under 15 boys as a way of passing on what we, as his coaches have taught him. Soccer has transformed him and enabled him to have leadership skills as well as being confident in everything he does. Most children at our centre are impressed by his personality and they all want to emulate him.”*



***(Playing hopscotch at JCW centre in Eldorado Park- Johannesburg)***

**National Early Childhood Development (NECD) - Windhoek Namibia**



**(Children Playing with toys at an ECD centre in Namibia)**

**NECD** is a registered non-profit organisation in Namibia that was founded in 1996. It aims at developing and encouraging cooperation among organisations and individuals working in early childhood development. Public awareness about parenting and child development including play has been a focal point within the organisation.

*“Play has been of paramount importance in the training given to early childhood practitioners. Children are taught through play in our centres. Every component that is introduced to children includes play and this has helped children to develop socially and physically. Ball games improve their motor skills, playing with blocks improves counting and can also help children to identify colours. Singing and dancing as well as running improve children’s health physically.”*



**(Playing at NEC playground in Namibia)**



***(Cameron Playing a guitar)***

**Cotlands** is a non- profit early childhood development organisation addressing the education and social crisis by establishing early learning playgroups and toy libraries in poor communities to serve vulnerable children from birth to six.

*Valencia, a loving “mother” to her group*

*“Valencia is an Early Learning Facilitator (ELF) in Macassar in the Western Cape. She grew up in Macassar and relates well to the people in the community. At the age of 38 she studied for her NQF level 3 and 4 so that she could work as a qualified ELF and assist her community.*

*Valencia tells the story of 3 year old Cameron who attends her Early Learning Playgroup. In his first week he battled to integrate with the group but as he became more comfortable with the group, he also became eager to play and learn with the other children. His dad commented on the positive changes in his son and how his social skills improved. Valencia enjoys seeing the changes in children as they grow in confidence through her work with them and her favourite part of her day is song time. It is during song and rhyme time that the children participate more readily, singing, dancing and performing. Valencia’s dream for her children is to see her them grow and improve.*

*Valencia also notes the overall impact that Cotlands has on the community and says the difference is evident. The four-hour play sessions have a jam packed schedule and they cover multiple areas of learning. Although people initially didn’t understand the benefits a four hour play session could have at first, they have now seen the positive impact it has on their children’s development. “*

**Community Youth Concern (CYC) - Zambia**

Realising the benefits of play, **Community Youth Concern** another member of the 'A Chance to Play Southern Africa' Coalition has endeavoured to mainstream play in its outreach programmes in schools and the surrounding communities. The programme is in line with the Zambian Government's desire to see that all children enjoy their rights to the fullest.

#### **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE:**



#### ***(The hostel at the Olympic Youth Development Centre: Zambia)***

*The Zambian Government together with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote play by constructing modern safe play places for children. One such model was built in Lusaka and is called 'Olympic Youth Development Centre. Community Youth Concern uses this facility when training A Chance to Play Programme and events*

*According to the centre's Programme Manager, "Mr. Johnny Zimba, the centre was established to act as a recreational centre for young people from the surrounding communities. The centre runs 17 different sporting activities that include traditional and modern games. Some of the sporting activities that the centre has introduced which would otherwise not be played in Zambia are hockey and baseball. Other common games played are football, netball, basketball, table tennis, draughts and cultural group games to mention just a few. Youth from our centre enjoy being there because they enjoy the facilities are for play and children are always relaxed. It is through these activities that a number of young people's sporting abilities have been identified and some have become professionals and have been taken on by professional sports organisations.*

*Mr. Zimba is excited about the centre's achievements especially having introduced new sports disciplines such as hockey. The young Zambian team participated in an international competition in Germany and their team won. Other activities the centre engages in are poetry, HIV/AIDS lessons and literacy classes for the younger children.*

#### **Community Arts Project- Zimbabwe**



***(Munashe Matimba making a toy using wire)***

*Community Arts Project is a children's rights organisation in Zimbabwe. Their main focus is on arts and culture. CAP offers drama and dance in addition to nurturing leadership.*

*Munashe is a young boy who is a beneficiary of the Community Arts project (CAP) in Zimbabwe and enjoys playing soccer. He has become a soccer captain; thanks to the training and mentoring he received from CAP. Munashe also joined a club called "Black Stars" where he has also excelled in acting and singing. He was chosen by a local television station to perform a part in a children's play. Munashe says that he has gained leadership skills, acting skills, the ability to play and interact with others, and that play has also helped him to deal with psycho-social issues. In his own life, Munashe has been enabled and empowered through having opportunities to play. Munashe says "I'm never bored I always have fun with my peers. Playing for a few hours with my friends does not affect my education. Play is healthy."*

## Breakthru Community Action



***(Children playing song a game at one of the cetres at Breakthru)***

Children Playing with baloons

Breakthru Community Action's focuses on creating a psychosocial support base for children, youth and their families in the greater Pietermaritzburg area as a means of encouraging responsible behaviour and improving quality of life.

**ACTPSA would like to share with you activities at the Breakthru Community Action Play Club (BTCA) which is located in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu Natal.**

Khethang and Nomfondo are play facilitators at BTCA and below is a description of their Play Club:

*"We coordinate activities in 12 areas across Pietermaritzburg. Our beneficiaries range from 4-18 years these children are from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. Some live in boarding houses and some in urban areas where there are no safe areas to play and develop. This year we have impacted on more than 800 children. One of our objectives is to hold Holiday Clubs in these areas where we have 4-14 years in order to create safe environments during school holidays.*

***The extent to which it was achieved:*** *This was the best ever holiday play clubs in terms of attendance with almost 800 children attending. The kids Zones facilitated this very well with some zones having an attendance of 150 in some areas. Indigenous games were enjoyed most by children. We have seen that children have been able to socialize with each other and they gained confidence, some acquired skills such as leadership skills which are essential in their development as human beings.*

***Challenges:*** *Fundraising for this programme is always left for too late creating pressure and inability to plan effectively.*

***Way forward:*** *We have been working with some community members as well as the Department of Sports and Recreation. Our organisation has created a safe play area but for most of our clubs, a lot of lobbying and advocacy is still needed."*

## CHALLENGES



***(A playground without proper play equipment)***

We have focused on success but we would like to mention challenges;

- Convincing organisations to include play as an integral part of their programme.
- Policy makers need to be convinced of the importance of play.
- Lack of adequate safe play spaces within communities
- Lack of champions who advocate for play (government and civil society)
- Keeping two-way communications with our members in the coalition and getting feed-back on their programmes.
- Exchanging site visits and inter -organizational visits and programmes because of distances and funding.
- Organizations having funds to promote ACTPSA Advocacy Strategy if not included in their funding proposals and to have assistance with setting up and managing local Play Forums
- Funding for training and covering expenses of participants for travel & accommodation

### **WAY FORWARD**

- Recruit active membership to increase the strength of the coalition and who are willing to take the message of play into their communities
- Continue vigorously with the implementation of Advocacy Plan
- Attract more funding both from foundations and corporates
- Hold bi-annual National Play Conferences
- Train Master Play Trainers who will then train Play Facilitators with a focus on youth and teachers in schools to promote Play Clubs, and make Play Breaks in school more exciting.
- Continue with the distribution of our newsletter, using social media and our website to keep people in touch
- Encourage volunteers to offer their services to promote play.
- Establish Play Forums to discover and provide for Safe Places for children to play
- ACTPSA to set up “model” Play Forum in Johannesburg

- Encouraging the governments to meet their obligation to uphold the provision of UNCRC article 31 and article 12 of the ACRWC

ACTPSA is managed by a board. These members have been selected from the 5 countries where A Chance to Play programmes are taking place. They have contributed much in enabling The Right to Play to take place in Southern Africa and these are:

1. Carol Bews-South Africa
2. Cynthia Morrison-South Africa
3. Haachizovi Simpande- Zambia
4. Kingston Makoni- Namibia
5. Moira Ngaru- Zimbabwe
6. Rui Mutemba- Mozambique
7. Sharon Shevil- South Africa

ACTPSA is also supervised by a Management Committee, meeting monthly at ACTPSA offices to discuss issues that affect the organisation on a day to day basis. Management Committee Members currently are Carol Bews, Cynthia Morrison, and Sharon Shevil.



Sharon Shevil (left)

Cynthia Morrison (right)

## **OUR PRESENT MEMBER ORGANISATIONS ARE:**

1. Breakthru Community Action
2. Children's Rights Centre
3. Christian Youth Volunteers Association
4. Community Arts Project
5. Community Youth Concern
6. Cotlands
7. Farm Orphans Support Trust
8. Gauteng Alliance for Street Children
9. Johannesburg Child Welfare
10. Johannesburg Housing Committee
11. Associao Kanimambo
12. Khululeka Grievance Support
13. KwaZulu Natal Regional Christian Council
14. Lefika La Diposo
15. Little Elephant Training Centre for Early Education
16. Midlands Aids Service Organisations
17. National Early Childhood Development
18. Nkuzi Development Association
19. OCADEC- Christian Organisation Supporting Community Development
20. Oosterland Child and Youth Care Centre
21. Rede da Crianca
22. Sophakama Community Based Development and Care Organisation
23. Thusanani Childrens Foundation
24. Ubuntu Education Fund
25. United Through Sport
26. Working Group Of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA)
27. Woz'obona Early Childhood Community Service
28. Environmental Africa Trust Zambia
29. Bahlabani Initiative

For those who are interested in becoming ACTPSA members or reaching out to other organisations, the membership is for free. Benefits of membership include subsidies for training and conferences, receiving newsletter direct to one's mail box, networking with other members, support on information to start a Play Club and initially using improvised play equipment. Our head office's staff members are always available to give wherever possible with support when required.

### **Conclusion:**

According to the experts on child well-being, sport and play are an integral part of healthy childhood development, allowing children to gain the information, personal and social skills, and support they need to successfully navigate key life transition.<sup>2</sup> Children are equipped with knowledge of play and

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/364\\_592.htm](http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/364_592.htm)

they facilitate play with their peers. They also pass on the knowledge to parents, teachers and guardians. As a result of these children have a better chance of developing holistically and their right to play (as entrenched in the UNCRC and the ACRWC) is realised.

*Acknowledgement: All the quotes used in this booklet have been taken from Pinterest.*

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Play is the way children discover themselves—starting with their fingers and toes and gradually including their whole body, their emotions, and their minds.

**Joan Almon**  
*(Adventure: The Value Of Risk In Children's Play)*

# Our World of Play



