



Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation



Uplifting South African education through the power of books and literacy

OUR MISSION

The LEARN Project is a South African non-profit trust that reaches out to schools and children in need. Our goal is to equip these schools with reading books and to create sustainable libraries and classroom book corners.

OUR VISION

To put a book into the hand of every learner in order to foster a love of reading and learning today, so that they may reach their full potential tomorrow.

Inspiring Hope. **Instilling** Change. **Impacting** Lives.



The LEARN Project, standing for **Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation**, is a South African non-profit trust, based in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Founded in 2012, our aim is to uplift education in our country through the power of books and literacy. We are passionate about the work that we do and are encouraged by the positive changes we are seeing.

To date, LEARN has donated 102,828 books, established 32 school libraries and placed 365 book corners in schools and organisations.

We believe that 'Readers Make Leaders and Leaders Build Nations' and with the wealth of information that books provide, minds are unlocked, knowledge is imparted and leadership is developed. This directly links to our core vision and mission of **The LEARN Project**, and we have so much to celebrate. Many of our **LEARN** libraries have won prestigious awards of excellence, a number of learners from our beneficiary schools have won competitions relating to reading, literacy and public speaking and **LEARN** has been commended by The Department of Education for the noticeable difference we are making in disadvantaged schools.

Awards

African Excellence Awards 2026 Best Literacy & Educational Transformation Initiative 2026, SA

Excellence In Edtech & Literary Impact Award Powerlist Laureate 2025-2026 In recognition of outstanding leadership, impact, and contribution to Africa's socio-economic transformation.

Acquisition International Non-Profit Organisation Awards 2025 Most Impactful Literacy Development NPO 2025, SA

MEA Business Awards 2025 Best Educational Literacy Initiative 2025, SA

Highlights

- Ntsika Mkhwanazi, from Ekuthuleni Primary School, went on to receive 7 Matric Distinctions, top awards and 5 varsity placement offers. He is now in his 5th year of Med School at UKZN, Durban.
- Kasturba Ghandi Primary School – KZN Library of Excellence 2017 and Nomfunda Mthwethwa – KZN Librarian of the Year 2017.
- Sophunga Primary School – 3rd place in the rural category of KZN Library of Excellence Awards 2017.
- Ekuthuleni Primary School – KZN Library of Excellence winner 2018.
- Hlengimphilo Full-Service School – finals for Most Improved Full-Service School Nationally and KZN Library of the Year Awards 2019.
- Zuzokhule Primary School – 1st in the semi-urban category of KZN Library of Excellence 2022.
- Mthubi Primary School – 1st in the rural category of the KZN Library of Excellence 2022.
- **LEARN** beneficiary school learners – won awards in the literacy category at the Department of Education Excellence Awards.
- A number of our schools have participated in the Phendulani Literacy Quiz and taken top positions.
- Ros Toerien named Patron by Chief Education Specialist, Mr Siyabonga Leshozi, from the KZN Department of Education in 2017.
- Ros Toerien awarded The Paul Harris Fellows Award from Rotary International, in honour of the work of **The LEARN Project** in 2019.
- Ros Toerien handed out awards at the Department of Education Excellence Awards for Pinetown district in 2019 and was guest of honour at the 2022 KZN Library of Excellence Awards.
- KZN lead Provincial Support Partner on the The President's Reading Champion Program, leading reading champions across our Province and reporting at National level.
- Ros Toerien officiated the 2023 & 2024 Pinetown District Spelling Bee as the official pronouncer of the competition and secured the winner a place in the African Spelling Bee Provincial finals where she came in the top 3 Provincially, making the South African team that toured to the African Spelling Bee finals in Ethiopia.
- Ros Toerien has been a key note speaker at a number of KZN Department of Education literacy workshops for principals and district officials.



Working with beneficiary schools

Many South African schools are based in impoverished areas and do not have the necessary resources to empower and equip their learners for literacy success.

We are thorough in our evaluation and planning of each individual beneficiary school that has been carefully selected once applications from interested principals have been submitted. Once the school is selected, a thorough needs analysis and tailored solution is developed. This includes identifying an appropriate room to be transformed into a functional library and creating a detailed plan of action and budget.

Creating sustainable libraries and classroom book corners depends upon the active participation of the school. **The LEARN Project** educates, equips and empowers the librarian, teachers and library monitors by conducting unique and comprehensive training courses. Their support and commitment is crucial to the success of the library, ensuring that the books can be enjoyed for generations to come.



Each library is the start of a long-term and meaningful relationship with the school. **The LEARN Project** aims to make regular visits to beneficiary schools to monitor progress and assist with mentoring and support.

The library becomes a space in which learners can read for enjoyment, research information and gain knowledge. These **LEARN** libraries become the centre of knowledge, the imagination station, the heartbeat of the school.

Working with donor schools

The **LEARN Project** has gained the respect of our donor schools' principals and librarians. **LEARN assemblies** promote literacy and reading and children are encouraged to donate their pre-loved books to share with those who do not have access to books. Donated books are then counted and the total number is relayed back to the school, together with a thank you letter and certificate of appreciation.

School partnerships are established between a donor and beneficiary school as part of our sustainability and development programme. An example of this is the school partnership between **LEARN** donor school, DPHS, and beneficiary school, Sophunga.



Working with companies & corporates

Companies can help us educate our Rainbow Nation in the following ways:

- Become a key partner and power the work of **The LEARN Project** through monthly sponsorship (B-BBEE Level 1 and Section 18A certificate provided).
- Become an official **LEARN** book collection point (**LEARN** collection box provided)
- Internal team building and book covering sessions assisted by the **LEARN** team.
- Partner with **LEARN** and adopt a school in need of a library and or book corners.

Working with volunteers

The **LEARN Project** is an active partnership between our dedicated **LEARN** team and the communities we are involved in. We rely on the support of volunteers who share in our core mission, vision and hope of educating our rainbow nation through the power of books and literacy. We aim to base all that we do on excellence and the sustainability of each project.

High school learners earn their community service hours through their time given in assisting **The LEARN Project** and Senior Primary learners and volunteers assist with the sorting, cleaning and covering of books.



Sustainability

Sustainability is one of our core values.

The LEARN Project has worked hard to devise and implement a sustainability programme to ensure the work that we do is sustainable.

The LEARN Project aims to revamp and further uplift **LEARN** libraries every few years.

Termly questionnaires and an annual library report is submitted by the librarian to give feedback on the running of the library and impact the library is having on the children in the school.

Evaluation of learners English marks. When we first start working with a school, the school submits their current Grade averages for English. This is used as a base line and reference point for **The LEARN Project** and school to assess, monitor and evaluate improvement.

Librarians and teachers assess learners on their reading level and gauge which learners need assistance and extra input to improve their reading. **The LEARN Project** has donated some 'readers' in different levels as an additional resource for reading assessment.

Librarian Network Group. **LEARN** librarians meet in order to exchange ideas and find solutions to the challenges they face. These meetings are also used as part of our **LEARN** evaluation into how the libraries are running and we occasionally host guest speakers and literacy specialists.

Teachers are equipped and empowered through a **LEARN librarian and library training course** and manual to run their libraries effectively and efficiently and follow up visits are made. Certificates are issued. **LEARN** has produced a revised and updated **LEARN Dewey Decimal Classification System manual**, to assist librarians with the cataloguing, processing and accessioning of books.

The LEARN Project has produced their own **Proudly South African Literacy charts and posters**, which are relevant to the lives of South African children.

LEARN Literacy Quiz. Certificates are issued and book prizes awarded for participating beneficiary schools in the annual Phendulani Literacy Quiz.



LEARN creates leadership opportunities in schools by training and rising up **library monitors** to help in the library and become reading ambassadors.

Water-proof library bags are issued to each child utilising the library and sewn by a community sewing group, led by Thembi Biyela.

Accession registers for every library and classroom book corner so we are accountable and the school is accountable for the books allocated.

LEARN stickers with our logo are placed at the back of every book given to identify **LEARN** books.

All books are carefully **covered in plastic** to ensure the longevity of the book.

LEARN block dividers for library shelves for easy identification of books. This also serves to assist the learners with keeping the books in the correct sections on the shelves.

Browsing sticks are used so that learners can keep the book's place on the shelf when browsing for a book to choose.

The LEARN Project team **attends talks and events around education** and literacy to keep us up to date and current with the latest information regarding literacy development in South Africa.

The LEARN Project does special motivational assemblies in schools to celebrate books and to highlight the importance of reading.



Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation

The LEARN Project exists because of its team members, donors and volunteers – all who give of themselves to make life better for others.

Take hold of the key and be an opener of doors.

Letters of recommendation

Rotary of Westville

"The Rotary Club of Westville Durban has had a long association with **The LEARN Project**. **The LEARN Project** provides a very valuable input to the literacy of the people of South Africa and their devotion and determination is greatly respected and appreciated.

The Rotary Club of Westville awarded Roslynne Toerien with our prestigious Paul Harris Award this year for recognising her valued input into a very necessary need in our country for the upliftment of our people.

The work of **The LEARN Project** is to be commended for making a noticeable difference to education and the improvement of Literacy in our country."

– Linda Bryers, President Rotary Club of Westville

Siyaphumelela Primary School

"Thank you for the whole new world behind the yellow door. Thank you to **LEARN** for your hard work in helping us have such a rich and beautiful library. Reading relates to everyone and we hope to create a love of reading."

– Mrs Lindiwe Mqadi, Acting Principal

Kasturba Gandhi Primary School

"Our learners have better proficiency and fluency in the English language through the many books that **LEARN** and many other beneficiary schools and donors that **LEARN** sources out for our schools. In our schools we now have reading programmes, spelling bees and literacy quizzes through the resources that **LEARN** makes possible for us to have. Our marks for language have improved drastically. In our libraries it is not only reading with understanding skills that are developed but writing skills as well. **The LEARN Project** develops and trains school librarians and school staff to better equip them with skills to ensure that they are able to manage libraries that are fully functional within the school to support all curriculum programmes and activities. **The LEARN Project** is a beacon of hope in our school communities. The partnerships that **The LEARN Project** has created between the donor schools and beneficiary schools is absolutely amazing. **The LEARN Project** ensures that beneficiary schools attend the same quality of workshops on reading as all the other schools that have resources in Durban. We are indeed educating a Rainbow Nation."

– Nomfundo Mthethwa, Kasturba Gandhi Primary School Head of Department, Head Librarian and KZN Librarian of the Year 2017

Become a Friend of The LEARN Project



When you support **The LEARN Project**, you help us Educate our Rainbow Nation.

We believe that 'Readers make Leaders' and with a wealth of knowledge at their fingertips, a brighter future can be seen ahead for each individual child, as well as for our beautiful country.

Ways you can help



- Collecting books
- Sorting books
- Covering books
- Setting up libraries and book corners
- Fundraising assistance



Contact us if you would like to drop off any pre-loved children's books or have a **LEARN** collection point set up at your office or school.



Monthly contributions, however big or small, help us do what we do. The need for book corners and libraries is endless and we would love to be able to reach out to more schools in need of these valuable resources. Should you wish to contribute monthly, simply scan our Zapper image and select the amount of your choice.

BANKING DETAILS

The LEARN Project Trust
Standard Bank
Account number: 051402637
Branch code: 042826
Registration number: IT000825/2015(D)
PBO number: 930055663

ZAPPER

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PLEASE NOTE: When making payment, please use your name or company name as a reference and email proof of payment to ros@thelearnproject.co.za so that we may thank you for your generosity.

Why not consider making us part of your company's CSI initiative?

We are able to issue Section 18A certificates for tax back purposes.
We are officially B-BBEE Level 1 and can issue an affidavit on request.

LEARN Video Links

YouTube Channel – The LEARN Project SA



Mthubi Primary School Library Opening



Zuzokuhle Primary School Library Opening



Bright Future Special School Sensory Library



National Book Week



World Book Day



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Contact Information

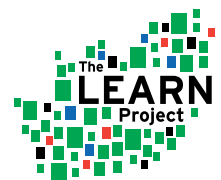
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