

These “*Most Significant Change*” stories arose from community participants who attended Vusumnotfo’s parent pilot training.

Vusumnotfo parent training makes use of its manual Growing Children Straight and Strong which provides an overview of how young children develop, so that participants can apply these concepts within their realities (rather than prescriptive parenting).

Chapters include:

1. Basic concepts of young child development
2. Growth Promotion and Development
3. Hygiene and Safety
4. Home Management of Illness
5. Emotional Development of a Young Child
6. Language Development and Communication
7. How a Child Learns
8. Social and Value Development of a Young Child
9. Practices that Protect a Child from Abuse and HIV
10. When Death Touches a Young Child’s Life
11. Developmental Milestones (Age 0 to 8 years)
12. Practical Advice for Parenting
13. Supporting the Development of Children in your community

A more detailed description of this training is provided at the end of the stories.

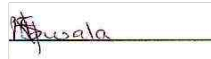


Temaswati Tfwala

It Is Easier To Put Lessons To Kids While They Are Still Young.

Lugotjwa Lusemanti

Signature:



My name is Temaswati Tfwala, Mrs. Shiba. One day I had no money to give to my son Sgcamiso as pocket money for school, when I told him that I did not have the money he cried so bad he became late for school. Children for my brother's wife had to leave him behind on their way to school. When they came home from school his cousins said to me, "Uncle, Sgcamiso was late for school today, he was crying all the way to school." and I said, "Why was he crying?" "He said that you denied him pocket money for school, you didn't give it to him." answered Khayelihle, one of my son's cousins. The next day I had the money and I said to him, "Okay my boy, since you cried yesterday I won't give you money today, I have it right here, but I won't give it to you because you cried and because of that you were late for school. I will give it to you the day you stop crying." He was okay when he went to school the next morning and he arrived on time because when I asked his cousins after school, they told me he was fine. I then went to talk to my son and said, "Okay my boy, since you did well today, I will give you the money tomorrow." and the next day I gave him the money as promised.

Written by Temaswati Tfwala.

Ligama lami nginguTemaswati Tfwala, Mrs. Shiba. Ngalelinye lilanga ngangite imali yekutsi nginikete umntfwanami Sgcamiso imali yekudla esikolweni, ngatsi nangimtjela kutsi ngite imali ngalelolanga wakhala kangangokuba esikolweni wate wafika sikhatsi sekungena sesishayile. Bantfwabaskoni labahlala lekhaya bamshiya endleleni akhala, nababuya bangitjela batsi, "yemalume Sgcamiso ufike late esikolweni bekahamba akhala yonkhe lendlela." Ngitsi mine, "bekakhalelani?" Atsi Khayelihle umzala wakhe, "utsi wena umncishile imali yekudla esikolweni awukamniki." Ngakusasa ke senginayo imali ngase ngitsi kuye, "okheyi-ke mfan'wam', njengoba bowukhala itolo ngeke ngikunikete imali namuhla, nginayo nayi, kepha angeke ngikunikete ngoba bowukhala itolo wate wafika sikhatsi sesikolwa sesishayile esikolweni, ngitakuniketa mzuwane uyoyekela lokukhala." Wahamba akahle esikolweni, ajabulile futsi akazange afike sikhatsi sesikolwa sesishayile ngalelo langa. Ngatsi uma ngibuta boKhayelihle nasebabuyile esikolweni kutsi bekanjani batsi, "hhawu namuhla bekahle malume". Ngase ngitsi kuye "Okheyi-ke mfan'wam' njengobe wente kahle ngitakuniketa lemali kusasa." Ngakusasa vele ngamniketa imali wahamba ajabulile.

Ibhalwe ngu Temaswati Tfwala.



Winile Magagula

Knowledge Is Helpful

Lwati Luyamsita Umuntfu

Signature:

My name is Winile Magagula, I have two children - a boy and a girl. My child had a problem, he didn't want to play with his sister who stayed here at home. His sister is two years old and he is four years old. He did not want to play with his sister but wanted to play with another boy who lived near our homestead who was about his age, he was five years old. I used to coerce him into playing with his sister all the time but he insisted just the same to go play with the boy from our neighbor. Then after I learned that it is important for a child to grow socially, now I know that I have to give him a chance to go and play with the other boy as he wish. So the classes changed me on that regard.

Written by Winile Magagula.

NginguWinile Magagula kuMavula, nginebantfwana lababili – umfana nentfombatane. Kusho kutsi indzaba yami isekutsenini lomntfwanami wemfana bekanenkinga yekutsi akafuni kudlala nasisi wakhe lokhona lakhaya. Labantfwana baphose balingane ngeminyaka ngoba lowentfombatane uneminyaka lemibili kani lowemfana unalemine. Lomfana akafuni kudlala nalowentfombatane ufuna kudlala nalomntfwana wakamakhelwane loneminyaka lesihlanu longumfana naye. Bengimphocelela vele ngasonkhe sikhatsi kutsi akadlale nalomntfwana lowalakhaya, vele angafuni afune kuyodlala nalomntfwana longumfana ngale. Emvakwaletifundvo leti lakavusumnotfo ngibese ngiyafundza kutsi umntfwana kumele akhule ekwakheni budlelwane, sengiyabona kutsi kumele ngimvumele kutsi ayodlala nalolomunye umntfwana longumfana badlale umdladlwana lofananako. Ngashintja lapho, kusho kutsi kungsitile kakhulu lokufundza.

Ibhalwe nguWinile Magagula.



Nonjabuliso Mavuso

Love Them Even When You Do Not Own Them

Nome Angesiye Wakho Mtsandze

Signature: 

I am Nonjabuliso Mavuso I live in Mbasheni. I have one child. I was a person who loved only my child and not someone else's. At home I stay with my young cousin who is four years old, and my child. I didn't have love for her but my own child. It didn't bother me that she cried because she needed food, I would tell her to go tell mother not me. Then one day someone invited me to Vusumnotfo for a workshop, and I went, we took classes there for a few days. Then one day I was just sitting at home, I called Tanele, my mother's sis's daughter, "Hey Tanele come here!" I said. She was startled at the sound of my voice summoning her. She new that the only reason I called her was for the beating I always gave to her, so she could not come. I called her again but still didn't come so I went to pick her up and put her on my lap. I told stories to her as she listened to me still with an expression of mixed feelings from uncertainties hampered by traces of relief. My mother does not stay with us but she comes home every Friday. When she came home, Tanele could not close her mouth about what transpired during the week when she wasn't here, "Mom! Sis Nonjabuliso didn't beat me this week, she got me on her lap and she told stories to me. She certainly likes me now and I like her too!" she said to Mother. This changed my life and I no longer feel the need to be aggressive towards her anymore. We are just friends now like cousins should be.

Written by Nonjabuliso Mavuso.

Mine nginguNonjabuliso Mavuso ngihlala eMbasheni, nginemntfwana munye. Bengingumuntfu longamtsandzi umntfwana walomunye umuntfu ngitsandza wami yedvwana. Ekhaya ngihlala nemntfwana wamamncane loneminyaka lemine, sengulowami. Bengite lutsandvo nalowamamncane nginelutsandvo nalowami umntfwana. Noma angakhala lowamamncane afune kudla ngingamnaki ngitsi akahambe ayotjela make angangitjeli mine. Kwatsi ngalelinye lilanga basibita lakaVusumnotfo, seta safundza emalangana, kwatsi ngalelinye lilanga sihleti ngambita, ngutanele libito lakhe, ngambita ngatsi, "YeTanele buyala!" wetfuka kutsi ubitwa ngimi, angitsi vele wati kutsi ngitamshaya nangimbata, ngaphindze ngambata wangeti ngabese sengiyamlandza ngiyamgona siyahlala siyacoca. Make asihlali naye ubuya ngaboLesihlanu, watsi nakabuya wamtjela watsi, "yemake sisi kuleliviki akakangishayi bekangigona sicoca, vele sisi soyangitsandza nami sengiyamtsandza sisi." vele nje kwaba nelushintjo lakimi, angisamshayi sesiyahlala sicoco.

Ibhalwe nguNonjabuliso Mavuso.



Calisile Ana Dlamini

Under My Watch They Are All Mine

Nabakimi bami bonkhe

Signature:



My name is Calisile Dlamini. I have a neighbor in my community that lives with two children of her own and one niece. She told her niece to go fetch water everyday after school for all the children to bathe with before going to school in the mornings and her children just stayed home. One day I called the young girl and asked her, "Why is it that you fetch water by yourself everyday?" "My aunt said to fetch water for bathing tomorrow, if I don't, it's either she beats me or she won't give me food." She answered. Then one day I went to talk to her aunt about how she was treating her niece. The good thing is, she was always curious about what I was doing down at Vusumnotfo and I would tell her that I am taking classes on how to grow children, so I am guessing that is why things turned out the way they did. Anyway, she welcomed me and I told her how often I have been watching her niece fetching water without help from the other children. I also advised her not to send her by herself since this makes her feel abused and discriminated. Now she gets help from the other children and she is happy.

Written by Calisile Dlamini.

NginguAna Calisile Dlamini, kushokutsi kunamakhelwane uhlala nebantfwabakhe lababili, newemnakabo munye. Kusho kutsi lentfombatane wayitjela kutsi nayibuya esikolweni iboya iyokhelela emanti labatawugeza ngawo ekuseni nabaya esikolweni, labakhe bahlala phansi nje. Kwatsi ngalelinye lilanga ngambita lonftombatane ngambuta, "yini indzaba ukhelele emanti wedvwana wena?" Watsi, "ha, kwasho anti watsi ngibokhelela emanti ekugeza ekuseni, nangingawakhi uyangishaya nome kudla anganginiki." Sekutsi ngalelinye lilanga ngaya kuye lo-anti ngiyomkhulumisa ngobe bekangibuta nangita la kutsi ngisuke ngiyaphi, ngimtjele kutsi ngiyofundza ngekukhulisa umntfwana. Ngatsi nangifika ke wangemukela kahle, ngamkhulumisa ngatsi, "uyati yencane kunenkinga la, ngibone nangu umntfwana aya emantini yedvwana ngicela kutsi ungabomtfuma yedvwana abomane ahambe nalomunye kuze angetowuva ngatsi uyahlukubeteka nyalo nakahamba yedvwana uva ungatsi uyahlukubeteka, kantsi nakanalolomunye ngeke anake."

Ibhalwe nguCalisile Ana Dlamini



Bon'sile Magagula

Developing A Relationship With A Child Through Interaction

Kwakha Budlelwane Nemntfwana Ngekuocisana.

Signature:

B. Magagula

My name is Bon'sile Magagula I live in Hhelehhele. I have three boys and two girls. It was helpful for me to come to Vusumnotfo because before I came here me and my children were in disarray. They wouldn't listen to anything I say to them and I didn't know what to do because I had no knowledge on how to grow children. When they did something wrong I would take a stick and hit them hard, but once I came here to learn that children must not be beaten but reasoned with for them to listen and do as instructed, I now see the change in them. One of my boys, he is in grade four now, I sometimes find him with my books teaching the younger one. Sometimes he teaches them the poems he finds in the books. I saw more and more change as I kept coming here. I don't beat my children now and they listen to me.

Written by Bon'sile Magagula.

Mine nginguBon'sile Magagula ngisuka endzaweni yakaHhelehhele, nginebantfwana labatsafu bebefana nemantfombatana lamabili. Ngisitakele ngekutofundza lakaVusumnotfo ngoba ngisengaketi labantfwana bebangangilaleli nami ngingati kutsi bantfwana baphatfwa njani, singevani. Bebatsi nabona ngitsatse luswati ngigalele kakhulu, ngenela kuta kutofundza la kutsi umntfwana akashaywa niyakhulumisana kuze nitolalelana, utsi nawutsi akente loku akwente. Nyalo vele sekunelushintjo naletincwadzi tami nje lolomunye umfana loka Grade 4 ukhandza sekatiphetse afundzisa nangu lomncane umntfwana, neyetilandzelo nje, amfundzisa ngetilandzelo latikhandza lakhatsi encwadzini. Vele lushintjo ngilubonile solo ngita kutofundza la. Umehluko sengiyawubona luswati alusasebenti sesiyakhulumisana silalelane nje kahle.

Ibhalwe nguBon'sile Magagula



Virginia Mdluli

The Formation Of A Family

Kwakheka Kwemindeni

Signature: V. Mdluli

My name is Virginia Mdluli, I am a community care giver in Lomshiyo. I have one child and I am raising four more children. I helped a neighbor who was a male and his wife wasn't living with him because she had a job somewhere far from home. He asked what we were learning in Vusumnotfo and I told him that we were learning about growing children. He then asked me how he is suppose to raise his children since his wife does not live with them. I told him there is no problem with that he can still raise his children even without his wife. I then got a chance to talk to his wife and told her that she should try to come more often and that once a month just was not enough, she should come at least once every two week so not to allow too much space in between herself and the family. She listened to me and now she comes home every two weeks. I now see change in the homestead, the children shine and smell good when they go to school.

Written by Virginia Mdluli

Mine ngingu Virginia Mdluli, ngingumnakekeli webantfu labagulela emakhaya kaLomshiyo. Nginemntfwana munye, lengibasitako bane. Ngasita makhelwane umfati wakhe bekangahlali ekhaya ngenca yemsebenti. Wangibuta kutsi sifundzani kaGesawu ngase ngiyamtjela kutsi sifundza ngekukhulisa umntfwana. Wase ubuta kutsi uma umfati wakhe ahambe wayosebenta angabakhulisa njani bantfwana ngatsi mine kute inkinga lapho uyamkhulisa umntfwana. Ngase sesiyakhulumisana ke nalosisi kutsi angabota nakuphele inyanga kuphela kufuna ete kanengi – mhlawumbe ecise liviki bese uyabuya atokwati kubambisana nababe wakakhe kute bakhone kukhulisa labantfwana kahle futsi kungetuba nemkhatsi. Nembala wase unyangilalela, bekawakaMkhabela lomake. Wase ngeliviki uyeta ke, cha nyalo sengiyalubona nelushintjo ngoba sengiyababona nebantfwana bayacwebetela, baya esikolweni bagezile banukelela insipho. Hhayi lokuta ngenyanga ngenyanga.

Ibhalwe ngu Virginia Mdluli.



Khanyisile Lukhele

What Did I Ever Do To You?

Kodvwa Ngenteni?

Signature: K. Lukhele

My name is Khanyisile Lukhele and I have five children, two girls and three boys. I also live with a three-year-old girl that used to live with her mother. Her mother would lock her in the house when she goes to work and free her once she is back and lock her again when she lives in the morning. One day, before I came to Vusumnotfo, she and I met and she asked me if I could help stay with her daughter because the life she was living wasn't healthy for her and I agreed. Now, because she was used to staying in the house and do pretty much everything in the house, she peed on herself and released her bowels anytime she needed to, she did the same things even when she had started living with me. For that I would take a stick and beat her, "You can not do that here!" I would yell as I beat her. But then when I came here I learnt that it's not helpful to beat children and that it's better to talk with them. I do exactly that now, I sit down with her and tell her nicely that this she cannot do here but she can do it where and how to do it. I see progress now because when she senses she wants to pee she knows she has to go out side and she does.

Written by Khanyisile Lukhele.

Ligama lami nginguKhanyisile Lukhele nginebantfwana labasihlanu, emantfombatane mabili sebafana labatsatfu, ngiphindze ngihlale nalomunye loneminyaka lemitsatfu. Kushokutsi ufike vele analeminyaka lemitsatfu kimi, wefika ngisengaketi la kaVusumnotfo. Kusho kutsi lomntfwana bekahlala namakwakhe, makwakhe bekatsi nakaya emsebentini amkhiyele endlini ahambe ayemsebentini abuye ngalesikhatsi labuya ngaso amvulele aphindze amkhiyele nakufanele ahambe. Sahambe sadibana, soyangicela kutsi ngihlale naye lomntfwana ngoba uhlala kabuhlungu ngase ngiyamtsatsa-ke ngihlale naye. Lomntfwana bekaba nenkinga yekutsi sowujwayele kutsi vele mine konkhe lengikwentako ngiyakwenta ngiyatonela ngiyachama khona la, nasekefika la wenta lentfo, ngitsatse luswati mine ngimshaye, "akwentiwa loko." Ngahamba ngahamba ngafundza kutsi umntfwana akufuni ngimshaye kufuna sikhulumisane, vele ngihlale naye phansi, eve nangabe sekonile ngimkhombe kutsi loku angifuni ukwente kufuna uyokwenta le, loku ungabokwenta la ubohamaba uyokwenta le, nawuchama ubokhumula iphenti uhambe uyochama. Nyalo sowucishe uncono sowuyeva, nasekufanele ayochama noma ayotikhulula, uyaphuma endlini ahamba aye ngaphandle ayochama, sekuphelile nalokutsi ngimshaye sesiyakhulumisana.

Ibhalwe nguKhanyisile Lukhele.

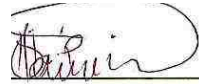


Londiwe Dlamini

Work With Your Child

Sebenta Nemtfwana

Signature:



My name is Londiwe Dlamini and I am Girl Scout. I came to Vusumnotfo with a child I borrowed from a neighbor. She is five years old and she goes to pre-school. She did not know how to work, she always had this idea that she is still a young child and therefore cannot work and her mother did not make her do anything. When I came to Vusumnotfo to learn, I realized that we have to work with the children to teach them how to do things. I then went to talk to her mother about what I have learnt and advised her to follow these lessons and she did. Now she is teaching her child to do a lot of things including washing the plate she was eating on. She now also knows that when she finds a spoon on the floor she has to pick it up.

Written by Londiwe Dlamini.

Mine ligama lami ngingu Londiwe Dlamini, ngilivulandlela. Umntfwana lengeta naye kaVusumnotfo ngamboleka kamakhelwane. Lomntfwana uneminyaka lesihlanu ufundza enkhulisa. Bekangakwati kusebenta, ekhaya ati kutsi umngumntfwana na make wakhe angamsebentisi. Ngenela kuta kaVusumnotfo ngitofundza, ngafundza kutsi umntfwana kumele sisebente naye, ngabese sengiyaya kumake wakhe ngiyamtjela kutsi tsine sifundzile kutsi kumele sisebente nabo bantfwana naye wase uyamfundzisa ke kwenta tintfo letinyenti, bekangakwati nje kwenta lutfo ati kutsi nje yena ngumntfwana, angawashi ngisho nendishi yekudlela. Nyalo nje netintfo tasekhaya soyatenta namake wakhe soyamsebentisa soyati kutsi indishi lekadlele kuyo uyayiwasha, sipunu angasikhandza phansi uyasikhweta.

Ibhalwe nguLondiwe Dlamini.



Thabile Dlamini

Developing A Bond In A Family

Kwakha Budlelwane Emndenini

Signature:

My name is Thabile Dlamini from Ntfontjeni. I stay with my mother and her grand children. There's a child at home that does not have her both parents so she stays with us. Every time she and I argue about something, mother would intervene by saying I should let her be, she has no family. One day she, the young girl, puked on the floor intentionally and I told her to stop that but she told me how dare I yell at her, she has no family. When mother came home I told her what happened but she yelled at me and I couldn't take it anymore so I told her to stop saying that the child has no family. I see change because my mother stopped saying that the child has no family and now we are good friends with the child. I told her that my mother is her mother too and she can call me sister not aunt because that will make her feel like an outsider.

Written by Thabile Dlamini.

Mine nginguThabile Dlamini eNtfontjeni, loshotsi ngihlala namake nebatukulu bakhe. Kunemntfwana lekhaya ute batali bobabili manje uhlala natsi. Besitsi njalo nasicabene nalomntfwana atsi make asimyekele akanabani. Ngalelinye lilanga lomntfwana watihlantisa samtsetsisa, wasitjela kutsi ngoba yena akanabani sesitamtssetsisa. Nakabuya make samtjela kutsi kwentekeni, wasitsetsisa, ngasengiyamtjela kemake ngatsi akakuyekele lokuphelo kutjela lomntfwana kutsi akanabani. Lushintjo ngabese ngiyalubona ngoba make wabese uyayekela kusho kutsi ngoba akanabani, nyalo lomntfwana sesiyakhona kuvana naye. Satsi tsine umtali wakhe ngumake wetfu akeyekele kuphelo kutsi akanabani asale atsatsa make njengemtali wakhe tsine sibosisi wakhe angatsi ncane ngoba utativa angumuntfu wangaphandle.

Ibhalwe nguThabile Dlamini.

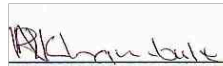


Precious Nkambule

It Is His Right Too

Kulilungelo Lakhe

Signature:



My name is Precious Nkambule. I live with naughty children at home, they beat each other and everything. I also live with another child that has no ability to hear and he is a little bit older now. The other children couldn't get along with him very well because of his disabilities. They dubbed him names that could have made him feel bad had he understood them. When you want to speak to him you have to face him in order for him to understand what you are saying. Sometimes, when he feels he wants to play but no one pays attention to him, he would steal their toys and run away with them only to be followed by the other kids, get caught, pulled by his cloths and beaten. Every time I saw that, I would intervene and try to reason with them to refrain from being rude to him and also make them realize that he does not understand that he should not take their toys. In some occasions they would refuse to play with him and to solve that I would take the ball or whatever they are playing with and challenge them to play with him and me because I know this way they will realize that he too, can play as well as they do. Today I am happy to say that they are starting to accept him as one of them. They play and even eat with him.

Written by Precious Nkambule.

Mine nginguPrecious ngiwakaNkambule, ngendze emvembili kaDlamini. Ngisafundza ke lakaVusumnotfo kunebantfwana lengivamise kuhlala nabo lebaleni ekhaya. Labantfwana bayashayana benta yonkhe intfo, kuphindze ke kunalomunye umntfwana longakhulumi sowukhulakhulile nje. Labantfwana abakhoni kudlala naye kahle ngekutsi yena akakhoni kukhuluma, baba nalokumetsa emagama kukhandze kutsi akeva, kantsi nawukhuluma naye kufuna umbuke nawungakambuki akakuva mbamba lapho. Babe nalokumetsa ke lomntfwana sonkhe sikhatsi noma ke ngalesinye sikhatsi nangabe lomntfwana akakhoni kukhuluma ebe lama-toys abo agijime abaleke, bamcoshe ke toti baze bambambe bamdonse ngetimphahla bammuke bamshaye. Ngibe ke nalokubayala sonkhe sikhatsi ngitsi kulabantfwana, "ningabomshaya akeva, usuke futsi angati lokutsi lentfo yenu kumele angayebi." Phindze ke bamchwese lakudlaleni kwabo, lesinye sikhatsi bale kudlala naye. Ngalesinye sikhatsi kukhandze kutsi ngiyayitsatsa lebhola ngitsi asidlaleni ngibakhombise kutsi naye uyakwati kudlala, naye ungumntfu njengabo. Kepha nyalo sebayamemukela badlale naye badle nananye kani bebamcosha bangafuni kudlala naye.

Ibhalwe nguPrecious Nkambule.



Nesi Khoza

Good Life At Home

Imphilo Lenhle Ekhaya

Signature: N. KHOZA

My name is Nesi Khoza I will talk about how helpful it was for me to come to Vusumnotfo because I used to call children names, lots of names, like big head or with anything that he is. It was helpful for me to come to Vusumnotfo because I learnt that I must not call a child names. I went to an open day at the school for my child not long ago, she was so down and anxious about the day because of the things she knows I'll say to her. However, I surprised her with soft words in front of her teachers and when we got home I called her and again talked to her with words of encouragement. She was happy that I was nice to her and so was I to see her like that. I no longer call her stupid or tell her how not serious she is about school. I have changed on that part and I am thankful for that.

Written by Nesi Khoza

Ligama lami nginguNesi Khoza. Ngitawucoca ngekutsi ngisitakele kaVusumnotfo kuta khona ngekutsi umntfwana bengimbita ngemagama incumbi, ngimbita ngenhloko lenkhulu, ngesicu nje langiso sona ngumbite ngaso. Kungisitile ke lokuta lakaVusumnotfo ngobe ngifundzile kutsi akukameli umntfwana umbite kanjalo. Loko kungisite ngekutsi ngisho nasesikolweni nyalo ngihambe ngaya ku-open day yemntfwana, umntfwanami bekancincitseke kakhulu ngobe uyangati kutsi nangifika kubothishela ngikhuluma nome ngayini. Koja nje umangele nasengifika kubothishela ngikhuluma kahle. Nasekhaya ngambita ngakhuluma kahle naye wajabula kakhulu nami futsi ngativa ngijabulile ngekumbona kutsi uyajabula lokutsi ngikhulume naye kahle angikambiti ngalolonkhe luhlobo nje lwemuntfu lokhona kutsi, usidvomu, uyadlala akafundzi ngobe bengiye ngisho njalo. Ngiyajabula kakhulu ngaloko

Ibhalwe nguNesi Khoza.



Futhi Sibeko

Development Of Self Esteem

Kwakheka Kwebucotfo

Signature:



My name is Futhi Sibeko from Timphisini. I used to have a very disobedient, thieving child. He liked money and goodies a lot. One day I gave him a test, I left a few coins under his guard and told him that I will come to him later to acquire the money he should make certain not to lose any of it. When I came back I asked for the money and he gave it to me still amounting to what I gave him. I then told him how grateful I was that he didn't lose any of the money and went on to tell him that he has grown to be a big and responsible man now. I went on telling him about how God doesn't want children who still from others but only those who don't, if they do, then the devil is there to burn them. I also shared my lessons from Mdvutjane that they teach us not to allow children to be bad but to be good. He changed and now he is a good and promising child.

Written by Futhi Sibeko

Mine nginguFuthi Sibeko, eTimphisini. Benginemntfwana logangako kakhulu lebekangabukani nje nemali nalokumnanjana. Seke lomntfwana ngase ngimnika imali lebhuhhehlu nje ngatsi akangiphatsela yona ngitayitsatsa nasengiyifuna ngiyitsatse lakuye, ingalahleki. Nangempela wayibeka-ke lemali. Ngatsi nasengiyifuna ngatsi akanginikete wanginiketa, wanginiketa iphelele. Ngase ngiyambongela ke ngitsi, "cha mfana wami sowukhulile, wente kahle kutsi ungayitsatsi lemali yami kube uyitsetse, Nkulunkulu akabafuni bantfwana labangangako ufuna bantfwana labangangangi, labangangako sathane uyabashisa." Cha nangempela ke lomntfwana waba nalo lolushintjo, ngamtjela kutsi nasesikolweni langifundza khona mine eMdvutjane, basikhutsata kutsi umntfwana singamvumeli agange, futsi nje angabi ngumntfwana lowenta lokubi abe ngumntfwana lokhuliseke kahle lowenta tintfo letikahle. Wase uyashintja ke nangempela lomntfwana, nyalo sengumntfwana lokahle nje impela.

Ibhalwe nguFuthi Sibeko.

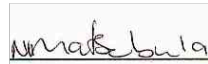


Nomsa Matsebula

They Are My Children Too

Bami Labantwana

Signature:



I had a problem with the local children who liked playing soccer forgetting that they still had to mind the goats they were looking after. The goats would then enter my fields and eat my crops, to that I would react in anger and beat them really bad. The children were used to my beatings and that's what they saw me for. Among them was a child they called "the strong one" because he never cried when I beat them. Out of ignorance I would beat the strong one even more saying to him "you say you don't cry".

After I attended the trainings I managed to create a bond with these kids.

At my church, I'm the Sunday school teacher so I have a lot of soccer balls I got through being a Sunday school teacher.

One day the boys were playing and the goats entered my fields. I called them wanting to talk to them but they all ran away except for one. I got closer to him and said "my boy, does beating you every time makes you happy? Look, you still have that scar you got after I beat you for the same thing last time, does it make you happy?", and he said "no mother I am not and I'm sorry about the goats". I then told him "I don't want to beat anyone this year because of the goats" and took one of my balls and gave it to him so they could continue playing and also gave them a space in an unused field where they would play and be in a better position to see the goats on time, before they could actually reach my crops. I told him to go back to his friends and tell them what I have just said to him.

They didn't believe him saying "we know she will beat us and we don't even want her ball". It was very difficult for them to accept the ball and even when they did eventually use it, they would send the one I first spoke to "return the ball to your friend" and I would say to him "this ball I gave it you, I want you to play with it" After some time they began to trust me and one day they all came to me in a very apologetic manner and apologized to me about the goats. It was a very touching apology and I told them "I will not beat you again, even if I find goats in my field I won't beat you, but I want you to take this ball and play in the field I gave you so you can be able to see the goats before they reach into the crops".

Now the children like me and "the strong one" is now my big buddy. I am grateful to the training because it helped me realize that these children are my children too.

Written by Nomsa Matsebula.

Bengihlushwa bantfwana labebatsandza kudlala ibhola bayekele timbuti tingene

emasimini akami. Bengibese ngiyabashaya ke labantfwana, ngibashaye kakhulu ngesibibitfwane, sehati-ke vele nabo kutsi ngiyababasa vele. Kulabantfwana bekunalomunye-ke bebambita ngenkunzimalanga, titsi tinganena lemasimini letimbuti batfumele yena kutsi ayotilandza phatsi ngobe yena akeva buhlungu futsi akakhali nangimshaya. Nami-ke ngekungati bengibese ngiyishaya kakhulu le “nkuz’malanga” ngitsi “angitsi wena awukhali!” Nganele kufundza ngase ngiyakhona kwakha budlelwane nalabantfwana.

Esontfweni ngingu thishela wasontfo sikolwa, ngenemabhola ke lamaningi lengawatfola lesontfweni.

Kwatsi-ke ngalelinye lilanga sengifundzile taphindze tangena letimbuti emasimini ami. Ngaya ngababita. Bangibalekela bonkhe besaba kutsi ngitobashaya, ngaphandle kwamunye. Ngasondzela kuye ngatsi “lalela la mfana wami, kulomnyaka lophelile benginishayela tona letimbuti leti niyjabula yini nine lokutsi ngiphetse kunishaya? Buka solo unetibati talomnyaka lophelile lebesolo ngikushayela tona letimbuti. Watsi yena “Cha-ke make siyacolisa”, ngase ngitsi kuye, “angifuni kushaya umuntfu lonyaka ngendzaba yetimbuti” ngatsatsa yinye kulamabhola ami ngamnika kutsi bayodlala ngaphindze ngabanika indzawo kulenye insimu yami kutsi badlale kuyo khona batosheshe batibone letimbuti tisengakangeni kulensimu lengiyilimako.

Wahamba lomfana wafike watjela bangani bakhe kutsi ngitsiteni, bangamtsembi. Batsi “siyamati kutsi uyashayana, nalebhola yakhe futsi asiyifuni”. Kwabalukhuni kutsi bayemukele lebhola. Kwatsi ngisho nalapho sebayemukele batsi nabacedza kudlala banike lona lengamnika kutsi ayibuyise batsi, “buyisela lebhola kulomngani wakho” nami ngiyale ke ngimtjele kutsi lebhola yabo ngibaphile.

Kwaya ngekuya ke bacala kungetsemba labantfwana, kwatsi ngalelinye lilanga beta bonkhe babuhlungu, bagudla lubondza, batocolisa. Kwangitsintsa nami lokucolisa kwabo ngabatjela kutsi “angiphindzi ngniashaye noma tinganena timbuti tidle umbila ngeke ngisanishaya. Ngabatjela kutsi “kodvwa ngicela nidlale ngalebhola lapha kulensimu lengininike yona khona nitosheshe nitibone letimbuti tisengekangeni ensimini”.

Sebyangitsandza nyalo labantfwana kantsi ne “nkuzimalanga” sengumgani wami lomkhulu. Ngiyabonga ngekufundza ngobe ngabona kutsi bami nami labantfwana.

Ibhalwe nguNomsa Matsebula.



Thuli Magagula

The Pleasure Of Looking After Others

Buhle Bekunakekela

Signature:

I helped my neighbours child who would go to school without proper preparations. His mother would not provide warm water for the child to bath before going to school and didn't cook breakfast for him before he went to school. I then went to speak with the boy's mother and told her to prepare her child well for school so that the child would be able to concentrate in class. I told the mother that if she didn't do that, I would report her to the Community Care Givers. I also told the boy that if his mother continues not to prepare breakfast for him when he goes to school, he should come and tell me. After that I saw a change in the child. He was now cleaner and I could see that he was now being looked after. And looking deeper into myself, the training helped me a lot because I also used to shout at my kids a lot. Sometimes the neighbours would come and watch as I shouted endlessly at my young child. Even worse, I was unstoppable and would shout such that I would sometimes get a headache. But now I have learnt, although it's a process, to be calm to my child and listen to him more.

Written by Thuli Magagula.

Ngasita lomunye umntfwana lebekahamba aya esikolweni ngaphandle kwemalungiselelo lafanele. Make wakhe beka ngamenteli emanti ekugeza futsi angamenteli nencwancwa, ahamba nje angakadli. Ngabese ngiyahamba ngikhulumisana nalo make kutsi abomentela emanti ekugeza nencwancwa ekuseni khona umntfwana atohamba adlile, akhone nekufundza kahle esikolweni. Ngamtjela lomake kutsi uma angakwenti loku ngitamceba kulihlombe lekukhalela. Ngase ngitjela lomntfwana ngamtjela kutsi uma make wakhe aphindza angamniki kudla abota atongitjela. Kusukela lapho-ke akaphindzanga lomntfwana ete atongitjela, ngambona sekahamba aya esikolweni ahlobile futsi ahamba adlile. Kwamine ngekwami nje, kungisite kakhulu lokufundza ngobe phambilini bengitsetsa kuphume bomakhelwane bato bukela. Bengitsi ngingakhuluma kakhulu ngive kungidvonseka umtsambo langasentsanyeni. Kodvwa nyalo sengifundze kwehlisa umoya uma ngikhuluma nebantfwana.

Ibhalwe nguThulu Magagula.



Senteni Dlamini

Understanding A Child

Kulalela Umntfwana Kwenta Umcondze

Signature:



My daughter in law has a very little child and she would beat her even though she was very little.

The child cries a lot and her mother would beat her because she didn't understand that a young child can be spoken to.

I then explained to her that a child should be spoken to instead of being beaten all the time. I also took the child from her and he now stays with me. I have learnt to talk to the child and even when he cries I can make him to stop without beating him.

Since my daughter in law is pregnant again, I hope she will raise her new child better now that I have given her some advice on raising kids.

Written by Senteni Dlamini.

Ngisatakele ngekufundza ngobe ngitsite sengifundzile ekhaya kwaba nemntfwana lomncane wamakoti wami. Loluswane ke beludzedzesa, make wakhe bekamshaya nakakhala angaboni kutsi lomntfwana ufunani nekungati nje kutsi umntfwana nakasemncane uyeva uma ukhuluma naye.

Ngekufundza ngasitakala, ngafike ngabatjela kutsi umntfwana uyakhulunyiswa.

Ngabatjela kutsi abamkhulumise lomntfwana bangamshayi.

Ngabese ngiyamtsatsa lomntfwana uhlala kimi, ngafundza nekumkhulumisa. Nome akhala ngiyakhona kumkhulumisa nekumthulisa ngingamshayi.

Ngiyetsemba kutsi ngobe makoti akhulelwe nje, utamphatsa kahle lomntfwana lekatamtfola ngobe nami sengimfundzisile.

Ibhalwe nguSenteni Dlamini.



Grace Malambe

Independence And Self Trust

Kuletsa Kutetsemba Nekutimela Kumntfwana

Signature: Grace malambe

One day when I got home, I found my niece waiting for me. She had lost her mother when she was very little and has been living with her grandmother who also died. After that she lived with family relatives some of whom were not real close relatives and would sometimes abuse her verbally. This slightly affected her mentally and as such, she needed to stay with people who could be patient with her.

Her problem was that she had been kicked out by a lot of these relatives and she didn't know what to do.

I asked her how old she was and she told me she was 18. I then told her "sis, you are grown up now, stop hoping from one house to another because you keep on being abused. What you can do is to get yourself a job so you can be able to buy yourself whatever you need and stand on your own."

She then told me she once got a job somewhere and she was able to take care of herself then. She left calmly that day and promised she would get that job and be independent.

Written by Grace Malambe.

Lelinye lilanga ngatsi nangifika ekhaya ngakhandza umntfwana wasikoni ete ngetinkinga takhe.

Lomntfwana wafelwa ngumake wakhe asemncane wahlala nagogo wakhe, nagogo wakhe lowabese uyashona. Emvakaloko bese ahlala etihlotjeni, letinyetato lebekungasito tihlobo tengati. Loku kwamlimata kakhulu ngobe nasengcondvweni wase uyatsikabeteka. Ngaloku-ke bese adzinga kuhlala nebantfu lebambekelelako. Lenkinga yakhe lebekete ngayo bekunguleyo yekutsi akasati kutsi kumele ente njani ngobe lapho ahlala khona bekadibana nenkinga bese bayamcosha. Ngambuta kutsi uneminyaka lemingakhi watsi una 18 ngase ngiyamtjela-ke kutsi "sisi sowukhulile uma sewungaka. Yekela lokuhamba uhlala ube uhlukubeteka, kwakho longakwenta kutsi utitfolele litho utokhona kutsita utitsengele naloko lonesidzingo nako, wena sewukhulile sewungakhona kutimela loku sona leminyaka lengaka".

Ngatsi nangisho njalo washo naye kutsi ukile vele watoha kulenye indzawo wabona kutsi uyasitakala.

Solo wahamba-ke atsi uyofuna litho, ngiyetsemba kutsi sewalitfole.

Ibhalwe nguGrace Malambe.



Ceb'sile Dlamini

Beating Is Not A Solution

Kushaya Akusilo Likhambi

Signature:

Ceb'sile Dlamini

I have a child who is 8 years old. The child was stubborn. My in laws are very stubborn in nature and they used to tell me that my son inherited his stubbornness from them. The training helped to open my eyes and I realized that there was something missing in my child. I took a deeper look into him with the aim of helping him where he might have been left behind in his early development. In the process I created a bond with my son. My child used to come late from school and never shared his issues with me. He couldn't even tell me when he was short of an exercise book or when he lost a text book. He couldn't find a way to tell me and I had to get it from the neighbours. But now that we have a bond, he comes back from school on time and even shares with me how his day went. Now he can tell me whatever he wants and I can also explain to him what I need him to do for me.

Written by Ceb'sile Dlamini.

Nginemntfwana loneminyaka lesiphohlongo. Lomntfwana bekanenkhani. Banenkhani emndenini wakami bebatsi kulifuto. Ngekufundza ngabese ngiyabona kutsi kukhona lebekusele khona kulomntfwana,ngazama kutsi ngimbuke kutsi usele kuphi ngase ngiyamkhulisa lapho asele khona. Ngakha kutsi kimi naye kube nebudlelwane. Lomntfwana-ke bekaphuta kubuya esikolweni futsi netinkinga takhe angangitjeli. Bekangakhoni kusho uma kunelibhuku lesikolwa lelishodako nome alahlekelwe yincwadzi yesikolwa. Bekabindza nje ngize ngive ngabo makhelwane. Kepha nyalo ngobe sesiyabhobokelana, esikolweni ubuya ngesikhatsi futsi sowuyasho uma kukhona labangakakufundzi esikolweni nome kukhona lokumphelwe. Nyalo sewuyakhona kungitjela konkhe lakufunako nami ngimchazele konkhe lengifuna kutsi akwente.

Ibhalwe nguCeb'sile Dlamini.



Dumsile Simelane

There Is Peace At Home

Sekumnadzi Ekhaya

Signanture:



I live with three children who are all my biological children. I was not patient with them. I would listen at what they were saying with no patience. Even though I loved them but I was still undermining them because I thought “a child can’t tell me what to do.”

After attending the trainings I learnt to listen to what they were saying. Sometimes they would say something out of line but I would correct them and say “it would have been better if you put it like this”.

I used to beat and shout at them, but now I have learnt to be patient with them. Still sometimes some things are startling to hear from a child, but my focus now is on helping them correct their mistakes.

They now listen to me better. When I tell them I want everyone inside the family compound by 6 pm, that’s what they do. I’m trying to bring more love and patience to them so that we end up united as one.

Written by Dumsile Simelane.

Nginebantswana labatsatfu lengihlala nabo lengibatalako. Bengite kubabeketelela labantswana,ngibeva kepha ngingababeketeleli. Nalo kutsi nje bengibatsandza kodvwa bekuhambelana nekubabukela phansi ngitsi “ngeke ngitjelwe ngumntswana mine”. Kusakela ngifundzile, ngingako lokulalela kutsi batsini,lesinye sikhatsi bayibeke ngaleny indlela bese mine sengiyabacondzisa ngitsi “hhayi bekufanele ukhulume kanje”.

Bengibashaya ngibatsetsisa kepha nyalo sesiyabeketelelana,letinye taletintfo batawufike bakutjele tona tikwetfuse njengemtali kodvwa nyalo sesihlala phansi silungise emaphutsa.

Nangibatjela nje kutsi kute lophuta kubuya, nga 6 ligede ngiyalikhiya, sebenta njalo. Ngizama kusondzeta dvutane lutsandvo nekubabeketelela kuze kutsi sigcine simunye.

Ibhalwe nguDumsile Simelane.



Lindiwe Masuku

Bonding With My Child!

Bumnandzi Budlelwane Nemntfwana!

Signature: LINDIWE MASUKU

I have a son who is 9 years old. All the abuse I experienced from his father I would pass it to him, hitting him with everything I could lay my hands on. When I beat him, I would say things to him like “I don’t want you here! Go to your father’s place!” The training helped me a lot, because I have learnt that hitting the child with everything I lay my hands on would destroy his future. I now have a relationship with my son and most of the time we sit and talk about anything that comes to mind. We sometimes have a conversation or play a game together. This relationship was no there before.

Written by Lindiwe Masuku.

Nginemntfwana longumfana uneminyaka leyimfica.

Konkhe kuhlukubeteka kwami kubabe wakhe bengikutsatsa ngikulahlela lapha kuye, ngimshaya nga nome ngabe yini lengihlangana nayo. Ngitsi noma ngimshaya ngimtjele kutsi “hamba lakhaya, hamb’ekhaya’kini, angisakufuni lakhaya!”.

Lokufundza kungisitile, ngobe sengifundzile kutsi umntfwana akashaywa nome ngabe yini ngobe umbulalela likusasa lakhe. Lobudlelwane sebukhona lakimi naye ngobe esikhatsini lesinengi sesiyakhulumisana etintfweni letinengi. Sihle sicoca noma sidlale sobabili. Bekute lobudlelwane kimi naye.

Ibhalwe nguLindiwe Masuku.



Ceb'sile Masilela

A Good Time With My Grandfather

Kumnandzi Kuhlala Namkhulu

Signature:

At home our grandfather used to beat the young kids a lot. When he was around everybody would shake. After I came from the training I explained to him what I have learnt. I told him that beating children is not a solution because the child will continue doing the very same thing you beat him for.

After that he changed.

He now calls the children and sit down with them for a chat, whereas, before he could not bare the sight of a child.

I remember this day after he stopped beating the children and one of them broke his favorite dish which he got as a present. We all thought grandpa was going to kill him with a stick. Instead he called him and showed the child he was hurt to see his dish in pieces but mistakes do happen and he can get a new dish which he saw recently at the shops.

Home is now good because we can freely have a chat with grandpa.

Written by Ceb'sile Masilela.

Ekhaya mkhulu becashayana. Bekatsi nakavela kuveve wonkhe umunutfu labaleni. Kodvwa ngatsi nangibuya kuyofundza ngamcocela kutsi ngifundzeni.

Ngamtjela kutsi akumsiti lokumshaya umntfwana ngobe vele utawuchubeka kwenta loku lobotsi umshayela kona.

Nyalo-ke sewushinjile, sowuyababita bantfwana ahlale phansi acoce nabo kani bekete nje kuhlalisa kwemntfwana phambi kwebuso bakhe. Sekumnandzi nje ekhaya sowuyakhona nekumtjela kutsi wena uboneni ekhaya.

Ngikhumbula nje ngalelinye lilanga umntfwana wabulala indishi yamkhulu yekudla lebamkhisimusa ngayo. Wonkhe umuntfu bekagadze kutsi mkhulu utambulala lomntfwana ngemzaca kepha wambita wamkhomba kutsi uva buhlungu ngalendishi yakhe kodvwa vele tiphosiso tiyenteka kubantfu. Wahlala naye wamtjela kutsi maye bekayitsandza lendishi yakhe kodvwa akusenandzaba ikhona lekatayitsenga lenye.

Ibhalwe nguCeb'sile Masilela.



Nkhosingiphile Ndlovu

It Is So Beautiful!

Awu! Sekuhle!

Signature:

I am a preschool teacher. The young kids were really afraid of me. When they saw me coming they felt like hiding behind trees because they knew that “madam is here and she is going to beat us”. The children were even afraid to touch me, but after attending the training I saw one kid comfortably sitting on my lap. I first thought she was sick but later realized that the kids have noticed that I no longer beat them and that makes them very happy. They even freely greet me now when we meet outside of school. Now I simply tell them “you don’t do this if you are my student”.

Written by Nkhosingiphile Ndlovu.

Nginguthishela wasenkhulisa. Besebavele bangisaba labotwana. Nangichamuka nje bebeva ngatsi bangabhaca ngetihlahla ngobe bayati kutsi “nangu madam ses’tawushaywa”. Bantfwana bebasaba nekungitsintsa kodvwa nje ngalelinye lilanga ngabona umntfwana agona, ngacale ngacabanga kutsi uyagula kantsi nje umntfwana uyabona kutsi madam akasantani lutfo. Kodvwa nanyalo nasendleleni sebyangivusela ngobe angisabashayi. Sengivele ngibatjele nje kutsi “ye anti akwentiwa-ke loku nawu ngumntfwanesikolwa”.

Ibhalwe nguNkhosingiphile Ndlovu.



Senanelo Dlamini

Finally, We Got Help

Sate Sasitakala

Signature:

I used to beat my child so much such that my mother would complain. With the other children at home, their mothers beat them and called them names like “you dog!” I then explained to them that when you call children names like dog, the child’s growth is affected.

That no longer happens now. Everybody at home has learnt to talk to their children and no one is beating their child now. I no longer beat my child too.

The child whose mother used to beat and call him a dog got used to her mother’s ill treatment such that he didn’t care what he was being called or how much he was beaten. He would continue with his bad habits and never cared to listen when reprimanded.

But after I spoke to his mother, she stopped beating him and started talking to him. Now he is a proper child who listens to her mother.

Written by Senanelo Dlamini.

Umntfwanami bengimushaya kuze kukhute make. Kulabalekhaya bantfwana bomake babo bebashaya baphindze bababite ngemagama lakabi, bababite ngekuts “lenja le!” Ngase ngiyabachazela kutsi umntfwana nawumbita nge-nja kukhona lawu mlimata khona. Nyalo akusenteki, labantfwana sebabakhulumisa kahle nalokubashaya abasabashayi. Nami lowami angisamshayi.

Lomntfwana lebebamshaya bambite ngekutsi yinja bekasenganandzaba noma make wakhe amshaya ambita ngenja kepha nje achubeke one kakhulu.

Nganele lokukhulumisana namake wakhe wase akasamshayi.

Lomntfwana nyalo sowuyeva make wakhe nakakhuluma naye akasenti lebe akwenta kucala.

Ibhalwe nguSenanelo Dlamini.



Mzwandile Dlamini

The Cane Is Not A Solution

Luswati Alwakhi

Signature:

At home when the young children ignored their chores like fetching water, my mother would get a stick and tell them “your uncle Mzwandile is coming”. When I got back I would trash them for not fetching the water.

After I learned more about children, I stopped using that stick I would find waiting for me at home. Instead, I learnt to politely talk to the children. I would tell them “you didn’t fetch water my friends, you should go fetch them now”.

My mother was at first not happy with me. She said the kids were now disrespecting me because I had stopped beating them.

After some time she realized that the kids actually listen to me more now that I have stopped beating them than when I used to.

Written by Mzwandile Dlamini.

Lekhaya bantswana bekutsiwa uma ngabe bangakakhi emanti, bangikhelele luswati balubeke babatjele kutsi “uyeta malume utanibamba”. Nami nangifika nje ngivele ngikhwele ngitehlele ebantfwaneni kutsi umkopota wemanti awukagcwali.

Emva kwekutsi ngifundze, bekatsi make uma angibekela loluswati ngifike labantfwana ngingabashayi, ngibakhulumise kahle kutsi “emanti akakagcwali bomshana, hambani niyokha emanti”.

Namake bese angitsetsisa kutsi labantfwana angisabashayi futsi sebayangidzelela, kodvwa emva kwesikhatsi wabona naye kutsi sebeva kancono kunalesikhatsi ngisabashaya.

Ibhalwe nguMzwandile Dlamini.

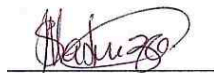


Nkosinathi Mabuza

Bringing Back Hope To Children

Kubuyisa Litsembe Kubantwana

Signature:



Before this training, I had no time for young children. I would pass them by without caring to stop and ask what they were doing.

One day I came along kids who were playing football, two of them orphans who were 2 and 4 years old. These two were sitting alone by themselves and not participating or playing with the other children in any way.

When I noticed that I took a ball they were sitting with and played with them. They felt welcome.

After that they began to play with other children. I was so happy to see them feel welcome to other children, they are now able to play freely with other children.

We always greet each other happily when we meet and they are now always happy to see other people.

Written by Nkosinathi Mabuza.

Ngisengakafundzi bantwana bengibendlula nje nginganaki nekutsi bentani ngichubeke ngitihambele.

Kutsite ngalelinye lilanga ngisuka ekhaya ngakhandza bantwana badlala. Lababili kulabantwana kubantwabendlunkhulu, lolomunye uneminyaka lemibili lolomunye uneminyaka lemine. Bebangadlali bona bahleti bodvwa lapha.

Ngabese ngitsatsa ibhola yabo yemaphepha ngadlala nabo, nabo bativa bemukeleka. Emva kwaloko base sebayacala kudlala nalabanye bantwana.

Kwangijabulisa kakhulu lokutsi sebativela bamukelekile kulabanye bantwana, sebayakhona nabo kudlala nalabanye bantwana.

Nami nangifikile sesiyajabulelana futsi sebayakhona kujabulela nalabanye bantfu.

Ibhalwe ngNkosinathi Mabuza.



Penelope Simelane

Creating A Bond Between A Father And His Son

Kuletsa Budlelwane Kumtali Nemntfwana

Signature:

My name is Penelope Simelane from Mshingishingini. The training taught me a lot of things such that I was able to help others from outside my family.

I have a friend who couldn't show love and affection to his 9 year old son.

When the mother of the child was pregnant, she told my friend that the pregnancy is not his and he should forget about the child. Later the child was born looking exactly like him and his family accepted and took the child as their grandson.

But my friend was really hurt by what the baby's mother had said to him during pregnancy and he couldn't open his heart for the child. He was not helping him in any way that touched on his life. He only paid for his school fees.

I then spoke to him and told him that this was affecting the child because the child needed to have a bond with his father or his whole life will be adversely affected.

He went back to his son and tried to start a meaningful relationship. In the first week after our conversation he took the boy for a meal at Kfc. From there, he was able to bond with his son and now buys him clothes, and even remembers to buy him birthday gifts.

He came back and told me he was happy now that his son accepts him as his father, whereas before, he would just run away when he saw his father's car approaching, not wanting to get any closer to him.

Written by Penelope Simelane.

Ligama lami mine nginguPenelope ngiwaka Simelane endzaweni yaseMshingishingini. Kuta kwami la, kungisite kakhulu kufundza tintfo letinengi kangange kutsi ngikhonile kuyosita labanye ngaphandle.

Kunalomunye umngani wami lebekanekinga nemntfwanakhe, lomntfwana semdzala vele uneminyaka leyimfica.Bekangakhoni kukhomba lutsandvo kulomntfwana kutsi amnikete lutsandvo lolukahle ngobe baba netinkinga namake wakhe.

Watsi make wakhe nakanesisu watjela lomngani wami kutsi lesisu akusiso sakhe futsi akakhohlwe ngalomntfwana. Watsi nakatalwa lomntfwana wafanana nalo mnganami ngaleny indlela kangangekutsi bemndeni wakubo lomngani wami bantsatsa lomntfwana babuya batomhlalisa ekhaya ngobe babona kutsi ngumntfwanakhe.

Kepha yena akakhonanga kumemukela, angakhonani kumtsandza nome nekumentela lutfo nje lokufaka ekhatsi imphilo yakhe kepha ayikhokha imali yesikolwa.

Ngabese ngiyaya ngikhuluma naye ngamtjela kutsi uyamlimata lomntfwana futsi kakhulu. Wenta babe bete budlelwane lobucinile lokutamlimata lomntfwana imphilo yakhe yonkhe.

Wazama wahamba wayocalela phansi imphilo nalomntfwanakhe. Lokwenteka nje kuleliviki lekucala lengamkhulumisa ngalo watsatsa umntfwanakhe baphuma bahamba bayohlala ngephandle bayoshaywa ngumoya bayodla e-KFC . Kusakela ngaleso sikhatsi-ke sebaphila kamnandzi soyakhona kutsi njalo nakuphela inyanga atsengele umntfwanakhe timphahla amentele konkhe. Ngisho noma sekulilanga lakhe lekutalwa uyakhumbula kumtsengela tipho. Wabuya nami watongitjela kutsi kumsite kakhulu ngobe lomntfwana soyakhona kumemukela njenga babe wakhe. Phambilini bekatsi nome afika ekhaya nakabona imoto yababe wakhe avela nje abaleke angakhoni kusondzela eceleni kwakhe.

Ibhalwe nguPenelope Simelane.



Ceb'sile Mamba

Lying To A Child Is Not A Solution

Kucamba Emanga Kumntfwana Akusiso Sisombululo

Signature:

My name is Ceb'sile Mamba from Mvembili. Coming for training helped me because I used to lie to my child most of the time and not tell him the truth.

My son lost his father when he was only 7 months old and I kept telling him that his father is my brother. My brother was the oldest in the family and always taking care of us. Then my son started saying "daddy" to my brother, but my brother's kids told him that "this is not your father but your uncle, your mother is lying to you".

After that happened, I was not at ease with myself and I saw it better to tell my son the truth.

I explained to him that his father died and how. I explained to him using a picture which I folded, put into a box, dug a hole into the ground and buried it.

From that day I could see that my son was at ease and so was I.

Written by Ceb'sile Mamba

Mine ligama lami ngingu Ceb'sile ngiwaka Mamba ngichamuka eMvembili.

Kuta kwami kutofundza la kungisitile kakhulu ngoba umntfwanami bengicamba emanga kuye esikhatsini lesinengi, ngingamtjeli liciniso.

Umntfwana wami washonelwa ngubabe wakhe anetinyanga letisikhombisa.

Bengihlala ngekumyenga, ngimtjela kutsi babe wakhe ngubhuti wami ngobe nguye lebekamdzala futsi anakekela likhaya.

Ekubeni ngimyengile naye wacala kutsi "babe" kubhuti wami, lapho-ke bantfwana babhuti bamtjela kutsi "akusuye babe wakho" bamtjela batsi "hhayi akusuye babe wakho wena, ngumalume wakho. Uyakuyenga make wakho". Bekungihlupha emoyeni loko ngase ngibona kutsi kuncono ngimtjele liciniso. Ngazama kumchazela kutsi babe wakhe washona nekutsi kanjani, ngabekisa nange kutsatsa sitfombe semuntfu ngasigoca, ngasifaka ebhokisini ngase ngiya simbela.

Kusukela lapho lomntfwana wakhululeka nami ngakhululeka emoyeni.

Ibhalwe nguCeb'sile Mamba.



Sibongile Dlamini

Beating A Child Is Not A Solution

Kushaya Akusilo Likhambi

Signature: 

I am Sibongile Dlamini from Timphisini, I have two children. My younger child who is two years old had a problem of banging himself on the wall or rolling on the mud on rainy days when he wanted something.

Because I couldn't understand what he wanted, I would take the stick. I would beat him thinking I was taking the stubbornness out of him, because I thought he was just being stubborn. I used to do this before I learned that the child also has feelings and this rolling and banging himself is an attempt to express his feelings or maybe trying to tell me that he wanted something.

After attending training, I learnt to listen to the child and now I know that when he cries, he wants something. This helps me to listen carefully to what he wants, for example, when he wants banana he says he wants manana. Now I know that manana is banana.

Written by Sibongile Dlamini.

Ngingu Sibongile Dlamini ligama, ngihlala etimphisini nginebantfwana lababili. Umntfwanami lomncane loneminyaka lemibili bekanenkinga yekutsi nakafuna into letsite atishaye elubondzeni nome atigicite eludzakeni nakune litulu.

Ngalokutsi bengicabanga kutsi unenkani futsi ngingamuva nalokutsi ufunani, bengibese ngitsatsa luswatike mine ngiyamshaya. Bengimshaya ngingacondzi lokutsi akukameli ngimshaye ngobe nangumshaya bengitsi ngifuna kumkhipha lenkhani lakanayo ngobe bengitsi wentiwa yinkhani.

Bengingakucondzi ke lokutsi umntfwana naye unemivo nekutsi usuke akhombakalisa lemivo yakhe kutsi kukhona lakakufunako. Nasengifundzile beseke ngiyamuva kutsi nakakhala kusho kutsi kukhona lakakufunako bese ngiyamlalela kutsi ufunani, kubekisa, nakafuna bhanana bekasho kutsi ufuna manana. Sengiyati kutsi manana ngubhanana.

Ibhalwe nguSibongileDlamini.

Back ground to stories

Due to changing social dynamics, people in a parenting role struggle to meet the needs of their children; a difficult task on its own; compounded by the interlinking challenges of HIV and poverty.

At a Vusumnotfo workshop with community members from three rural areas, participants stated that they would like their children to grow up to be able to:

- o Look after themselves
- o Reach a high level of education (beyond Form 5), and the necessary knowledge to do their job (*an interesting distinction*)
- o Be actively involved in development issues within their community
- o Enjoy a better life than their parents
- o Live morally – to conduct their lives in accordance with values and principles.
- o Remember where they came from - honour their culture, their family, and their parents.
- o Have the desire and the ability to make their dreams come true

When asked if their children were achieving these objectives, participants said, “Mostly, we are completely failing.” One Swazi man said, “Even as I beat my child, I know it is not working, but I don’t know what else to do.” Another participant said, “Do not tell us to love our children, but tell us how to love them, because we really do not know how.” – *a reference perhaps to the universal confusion parents face regarding the financial needs – and wants - of their children.*

People acting in a parenting role are thus not able to formulate appropriate strategies that meet the needs of the children under their care, and communities struggle to identify how they can provide support to orphaned and vulnerable children without external assistance.

Swaziland is also trying to work through a major point of transition, sort of moving from the “my way or the highway” mode of operation at family, cultural, and national level, to a mode of operation that embraces the diversity inherent in a human rights approach.

As a result, the old ways of parenting are not longer fully implemented, nor if they were, do they prepare a child to develop and function in the modern world, in a manner that matches with the aspirations of young children.

Appreciating the long-term developmental benefits associated with Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), in 1999, Vusumnotfo initiated in-service training activities for community preschool practitioners operating at rural level. Several years later, the preschool practitioners identified the need to raise awareness at family and community level, regarding the basic concepts of ECCD.

This resulted in Vusumnotfo writing the training manual - Growing Children Straight and Strong – used for community at large training in the basic concepts of ECCD, as indicated:

1 – Basic Concepts of Early Childhood Care and Development	9 – Practices that Protect a Child from Abuse and HIV
2 – Growth Promotion and Development 3 – Hygiene and Safety 4 – Home Management if Illness	10 – When Death Touches a Young Child’s Life
5 – Emotional Development of a Child	11 – Developmental Milestones (Age 0 to 8 years)
6 – Language Development and Communication	12 – Practical Advice for Parenting
7 – How a Child Learns	13 – Supporting the Development of Children in your Community
8 – Social and Value Development of a Child	

The objective is for people to understand the basic concepts of child development, so that they can *apply these concepts within the reality of their situation*, rather than prescribing any one style of parenting.

With this understanding, a person can appreciate how much of parenting is *inter-action* rather than *money*; for example, if asked the following question, what answer would you select?

What has a greater direct impact on language and emotional development of a child?

1 – Attention and positive inter-action with adults? OR

2 – Money?

Understanding that the essence of parenting is the inter-action between adults and children is in line with a wide body of research indicating that *the single most important determinant of ECCD quality is interaction between children and staff, with a focus on the needs of the child.*¹

Parenting - in relation to achieving universal Children's Rights

In rural Swaziland, the term *Children's Rights* - as it is often used in poster format by international agencies - is at times causing confusion among parents, who mistakenly associate the term *Children's Rights* with *children's naughty behavior* – and this does not further the objective of Children's Rights, and at times may inadvertently be working against it.

So how can the concept of Children's Rights - *The Right to Survival, Growth, and Development* – be made relevant to everyday parenting at community level? Be made specific to my child? And measured in a way that the everyday parent at community level can understand?

Development milestones are well documented for the physical, emotional, language, social, and cognitive development of a child during the ECCD years. Therefore, *in the most practical and simplest terms* – one can assume that children who have achieved their ECCD milestones have *Survived, Grown, and Developed*.

At community level, the advantage of using ECCD milestones as the basic building block to both *define* Survival, Growth, and Development, and the *tool used to measure* Survival, Growth, and Development is threefold:

- Once a person understands the link between child's rights and ECCD milestones, they realize that the achievement of universal children's rights matches up with their own aspirations for the children under their care (instead of thinking that the concept of Children's Rights undermines them as a parent).
- ECCD milestones are independent of cultural context - children all over the world crawl before they walk - parents can therefore embrace Children's Rights within their own cultural context, rather than mistrusting it as something foreign.
- Understanding of ECCD milestones can focus parenting efforts, making it easier to distinguish between a child's needs, and a child's wants, a distinction that greatly facilitates *effective* parenting in both resources rich, and resource poor homes.

Parenting – in relation to a wide range of HIV interventions

Care and Support - Given the rate of HIV infection in Southern Africa, there is an increasing need for ECCD services outside the home environment, with such services encompassing very diverse arrangements, both formal and non-formal, including community-based child-care, residential care, supplementary food, and centre-based approaches.

As already noted, a wide body of research indicates that the relationship between the child and caregiver is *the single most important determinant of the quality of ECCD service delivery*. Therefore, staff involved with such service delivery need to understand that they are *parenting* the children under their care - be it while they are giving injections, cooking food, or working as a secretary in a residential situation.

This understanding needs to be internalized in every day attitudes and interactions – particularly so in interventions where children have already suffered the loss of one or both parents (as these children already have re-bonding challenges to overcome).

Mitigation – Psycho-social support (PSS) covers a wide range of interventions to address the emotional and social development of children in difficult circumstances.

¹ UNESCO - EFA Global Monitoring Report for 2007

PSS however is not a new and separate language from ECCD - although at times it is programmed so. Rather the aim of PSS is to provide the extra support needed so that children in these difficult circumstances can also achieve their ECCD milestones – although their “starting point” is different, the goal for these children is the same as for all children.

ECCD therefore provides the foundation to understand the “why” behind PSS strategies so that caregivers can apply PSS tools suitably to each child, instead of going through the motions of for example, memory boxes.

Understanding this linkage between ECCD and PSS - and programming accordingly - strengthens both broad based ECCD programming and PSS interventions, and facilitates the integration of children with special needs – thus, furthering the achievement of universal children’s rights.

Prevention - A child who has achieved his or her ECCD milestones will, for example be:

- More resilient to the impact of HIV in the family and community
- Better able to negotiate through the challenges of puberty without engaging in risk behavior associated with HIV infection
- Better able to function beyond dependency, thus reaching adulthood with the capacity to fulfill their adult responsibilities, and make their dreams happen.

Adequate ECCD is therefore an effective tool in combating both the spread of HIV (prevention), and the effect of HIV at family level (mitigation). Conversely, *inadequate* ECCD can be understood as both a consequence of the effect of HIV, and as a factor in the spread of HIV - and this applies equally to all children in Southern Africa today.

Parenting – as it relates to Poverty reduction

Adults who come to understand the basic concepts of child development can better understand their own behavior. This has positively been Vusumnotfo’s experience when training with Growing Children Straight and Strong, for example, of the 120+ participants who have attended training, 40% asked to be tested for HIV after training (and did).

The Self Evaluations at the end of every Chapter are designed to facilitate this introspective process, for example:

Chapter 1 - The basic concepts of ECCD - What was your motivation for having children:

- To prove my love to my partner in a way that will bind him/her to me
- To share the experience of raising a child with my partner
- To prove my worth as a man or as a woman
- Because my family or my community expected me to
- I had no motivation to have children but had unprotected sex
- It is traditional to have many children
- Any other reason?

Chapter 5 – Emotional development – *Are you comfortable when a girl child expresses the emotion of anger? What is your reaction when you see a young boy crying? Do you encourage a boy child to name and express his feelings in the same way that you would for a girl child?*

Chapter 8 – Social and Value Development of a Child – *When you were a child, were you disciplined or punished? Do you have self-control?*

Chapter 9 – Practices that Protect a child from abuse and HIV – *Would you be happy if your daughter grew up and married a man who behaves towards your wife as you do? Or if your son grew up and married a woman who behaves towards your husband as you do?*

Adults who come to understand the influences – both positive and negative – from their own childhood are better able to formulate strategies to support the development of children within their family and community.

What this means

In advocating and implementing an ECCD approach – let us remember that parenting – *the day- to- day inter-action between adults and children* – is the critical key.

Strengthened parenting – independent of a biological relationship or money - is therefore, the starting point - an opportunity that is available to every one of us now, despite the resources of the home, **today**.