

## The Khanyisela Project South Africa

*Deep in the remote Drakensberg mountains, there are a number of villages where people live with their children in small dwellings without running water or electricity.*



*Until relatively recently, children had little access to preschool provision, which we know is so important for school success and which in turn breaks the cycle of extreme poverty leading to better health and wellbeing in the future .*

*Not only is education a way out of poverty, it also enables better understanding of the political system in South Africa and how an informed vote can install a government which supports its disadvantaged communities and creates opportunities.*



*A few years ago, on one of my trips in South Africa, I came across some very special people. From a couple of lodges in the Northern Drakensberg, a little charity called Khanyisela had begun to focus on providing preschool education for the many small children in the area, by working with 12-14 informal crèches.*

***Thanks to the charity and benefactors .....***

***Each child has a bowl of nutritionally enriched porridge when attending the crèche***



**Local women have had training in early childhood development**



**Much-needed books and toys have been provided...**



***Buildings not fit for purpose have been upgraded or replaced...***



***Work is ongoing and money is constantly needed to sustain, develop and extend ...***



*My role is as a volunteer consultant. I was there in May last year and this year I will be going back with a colleague to again work with the crèche staff and the children to promote the importance of language and communication for future educational success. Last year we spent a lot of time demonstrating how to engage and play with babies and very young children as well as helping staff appreciate how imaginative play can facilitate children's language and social development. This year we may be able to also focus on mothers with their babies helping them to understand the importance of early mother child interaction for future developmental progress.*

***The first 1000 days of a child's life are so important.....***





*Whatever we get involved this May we aim to make a difference to disadvantaged children's lives and to their futures!*

*I know there are many good causes at home but having spent time working in this community, I can assure you that the need is very great and a little money goes a long way...*

***What's more every penny donated goes directly to helping the children.***



**Thank you very much for anything you give**  
**<http://www.khanyiselaprojects.co.za>**