

# Training of Caregivers Newsletter



Graduation photo

Most public nursery school learners in Malawi are taught by untrained caregivers. With funding from the Rotary Foundation-District 1190 Cumbria and Lancashire through Classrooms for Malawi, the Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM) conducted a two-week Early Childhood Basic training for 27 caregivers. The caregivers were drawn from the following nursery schools: Mzedi Butao (5), Kachere(1), Madulira (2), Mang'omba (3), Mbinda (5), Mpunga (3), St Mary's Chemusa(3), Bright Future (4) and Joshua Foundation (1).

The residential training took place from 8th November to 18th November 2022 at AECDM's training Centre in Blantyre. The facilitators were drawn from AECDM and the government of Malawi.

There were 10 topics that were covered in modular form: Child Development, Play and early learning materials and equipment, Learning through play, Planning and organizing the learning environment, Child health and care, Child hygiene and environmental care, Child nutrition and care, Children's rights

and their welfare, Care and Development of children with special needs and ECD Centre Management and Partnerships,

The participants were happy with the training and their comments were as follows:

### **Bright Future and Joshua Nursery Schools**

“At first we were just teaching using common sense and guess work. We were standing in front to present our lessons instead of putting them in groups and joining and assisting them in the groups. We have also learnt how to make playing materials locally. Furthermore, we have learnt about the depth of the content and language we have to use when teaching. Another aspect that we have learnt is to read pupils’ mind and feelings and if negative, investigate and resolve them.”

**Bright Future and Joshua participants:** Monica Kazembe, Edess Ganiza, Magret Mukhurwa, Loveness Boma and Tikhale Perenje

### **Mang’omba nursery School**

**Mang’omba participants:** Rhoda Mbewe, Mary Nyambalo and Alinafe Joseph

“We have learnt that we need to encourage the children to bring exercise books in which they can be practicing writing and drawing. The books should be left at school. On the closing day, we should be showing the parents what their children were writing and drawing. We have also been taught the best way of teaching the alphabet instead of what we were doing by simply shouting out the letters.”

### **St. Mary's nursery School**

“we have learnt a lot of things that we were not aware of. For example, the psychology of child, how to care for a child, the areas of child growth like spiritual, physical, behavioural, cognitive and linguistic growth. At first we were just focusing on one area and ignoring the other areas because of lack of knowledge. Secondly, we were just going into the classroom without planning our lessons. We have also learnt about how we can deal with high enrolment classes and children of different ages. In addition, we have also learnt about investigating children's background so that we understand their behaviour better and have it corrected in partnership with their parents. Most importantly, we have also learnt how to make teaching and learning materials locally and we promise that we will be implementing all this. We sincerely thank Classrooms for Malawi and the Rotary Foundation for the training.”

**St. Mary's Chemusa participants:** Ellen Katentha ,  
Catherine Tenet and Victoria Chikova

### **Mbinda nursery school**

“Our centre had no trained caregiver and we have learnt a lot from the training and we will change the way we used to teach the children. For example, we used to underrate learning by using the playing materials but through the knowledge and skills that we have gained from the training, we have noted that a lot of child's growth aspects can be derived from the playing materials. We have also learnt about love for the children and health aspects.”

**Mbinda participants:** Selina Chikoti, Madalitso Kacholima, Jessie Selina Miles,  
Mphatso Vumba and Florence Masamba

### **Mpunga nursery**

“ We have learnt about creating friendship with the children and even visiting them in their respective homes. We have also learnt more about the importance of playing materials and the various areas of growth that they assist the children with. We have been encouraged to even receive and teach children with special needs and how to involve them in all the activities that we do at the school. We have also learnt about first aid.”

**Mpunga nursery participants:** Loveness Kadamika, Magret Mawiza and Evelyn Banda

### **Kachere nursery school**

**Kachere participant:** Benita Edward

“We have learnt about how to plan and present our lessons. At first we used to shout at kids when playing but we have been advised to let the kids play freely and assist them where necessary. I never knew that that there are 8 groups of games but through this training I have learnt all that.”



Training in progress



Caregivers practicing some games



*Display of some of the materials made by the caregivers*



*Mary's Meals official encouraging the participants*