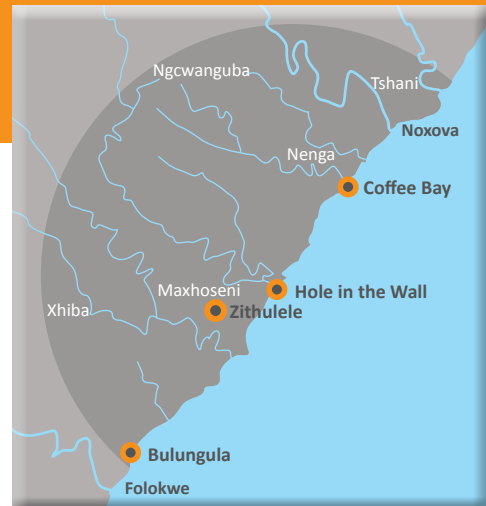


# THE KAMVALETHU FOUNDATION

“Advancing the quality of youth education in under-resourced areas”

## OUR STRATEGY

Over the next seven years the Kamvalethu Foundation will be investing the majority of its funds into Early Childhood Development (ECD) and literacy development. Current focus areas include Coffee Bay, Hole in the Wall, Bulungula and the surrounding wards (19, 24, 25, 26 & 27) on the Wild Coast, South Africa. On average, only 21% of children from these areas finish Matric. (1)



## Kamvalethu Theory of Change

78% of Grade 4 learners in South Africa cannot read for meaning (in any language). Reading is the fundamental skill upon which all other skills depend and the foundations for this begin right from birth. Growth stunting, unemployment, and family stress impede this development. Rural areas are particularly vulnerable due to their lack of access to basic resources.

Early Childhood Development Centres

Support for Care-Givers

Interventions Focused on age 5-10 Years Literacy Development

What we fund

CAPACITY BUILDING

Knowledge

Mindsets

Skills

Grade 1 School Readiness

Improved Care-Giver Interactions & Relationships

Access & Use of High Quality Resources & Technology

What we seek to achieve

2025

78% of Grade 4 learners benefitting from our projects can read for meaning.

## What We Fund and Seek to Achieve

### What We Fund

We fund organisations whom we refer to as our, ‘project partners’. These project partners work directly with caregivers, and children between the ages of 0-10 years.

- **ECD Centres:** Our preschools of choice follow a Montessori methodology which develop critical pre-literacy skills and ensure they are ready for Grade 1.
- **Support for Caregivers:** This could take various forms, such as the provision of parenting workshops, mentoring mothers visiting within the home, support from the start of pregnancy, and the provision of psychosocial support.
- **Interventions Focused on age 5-10 Years Literacy Development:** Literacy programmes, Apps, libraries, and after-school programmes are all included here.

### What We Seek to Achieve

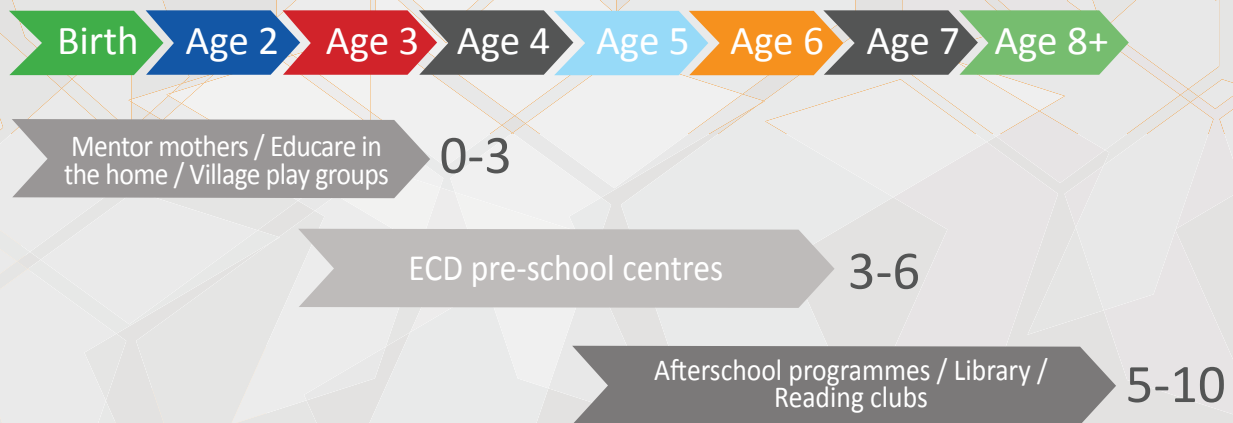
- We seek to help build capacity within those project partner organisations who are on a journey to becoming self-directed and sustainable. They are after all the experts in what they do! We truly value people and relationships and are committed to developing leaders.
- It is our ultimate goal, and hope, to flip the script and claim that **78% of the grade 4 learners benefitting from our projects can read for meaning!** We will be monitoring the progress along with our project partners. Early Grade Reading Assessments (EGRA) will be utilised to evaluate our ultimate goal.



kamvalethu

“Our Future”

## Project Investment by Age Range



## Why These Key Focus Areas?

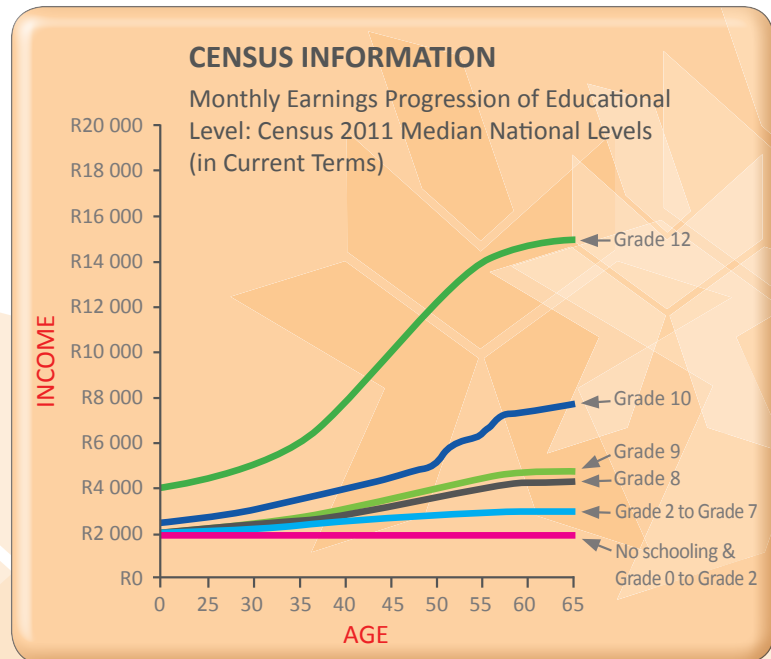
### Return on Investment.

ECD is one of the most cost-efficient investments in human capital which leads to a country's sustainable development. (2)



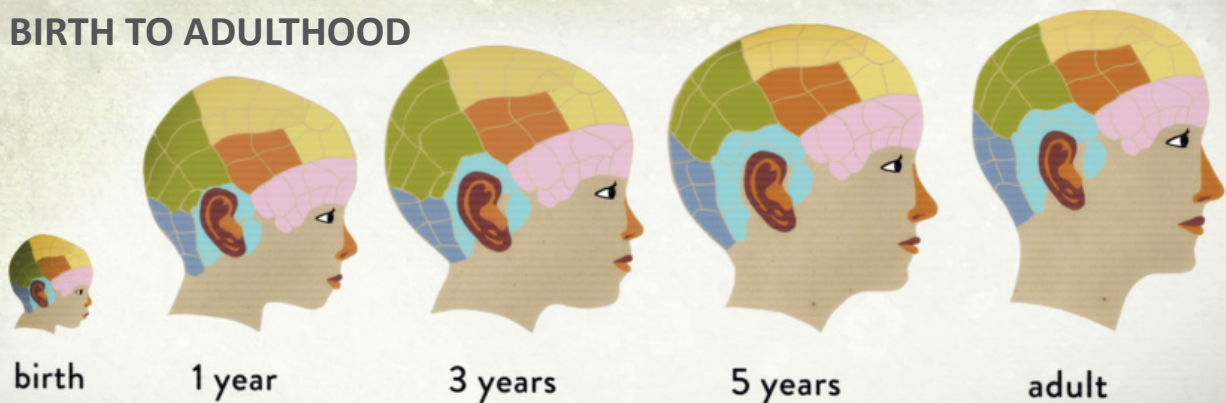
### Education/ Income Relation.

Children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to leave school prematurely and research shows that with each grade you progress to, over a lifetime, your earning potential grows significantly. (3)



Above: Spear Specialist Earnings utilising the census statistics to show the education/ income relation. (4)

## BIRTH TO ADULTHOOD



**Above:** This image depicts how quickly the brain grows between birth and the age of five. By the age of six, the brain is approximately 90% of the size it will reach in adulthood. Image Source: Jordan Bruner

### Brain Development.

The critical times in brain development (the development of sensory pathways, language and higher cognitive function) are developed even before children start school. (5)

### Reading for Meaning by Grade 4 is the Critical Skill to Address.

In a country where 78% of children cannot read for meaning in any language, this skill upon which all other skills depend, is missing. (6)

### Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development.

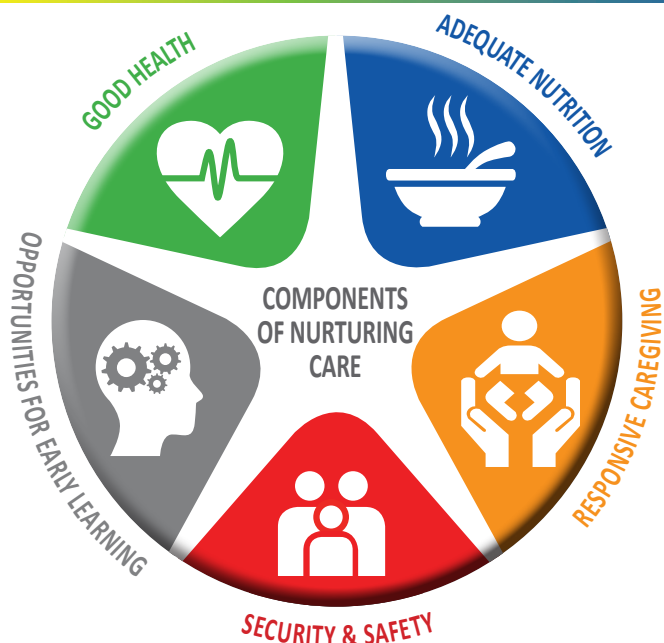
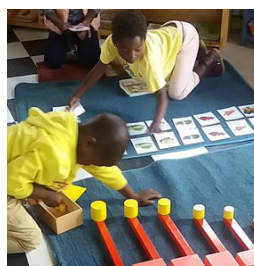
The components of the nurturing care framework are well researched. All of these components are considered when funding a project. The interventions for success are relatively straight forward and achievable. These include good health, adequate nutrition, responsive care-giving, safety and security and opportunities for early learning. (7)

### Rural Areas Are Overlooked.

Hard to reach areas are often left out of the development agenda. There are 884,000 children in the Eastern Cape under the age of 6 (the third most in the country). 60% of these children are rural and 79% live in poor households. Many of these children live in single-parent households. (8)

### International & National Alignment.

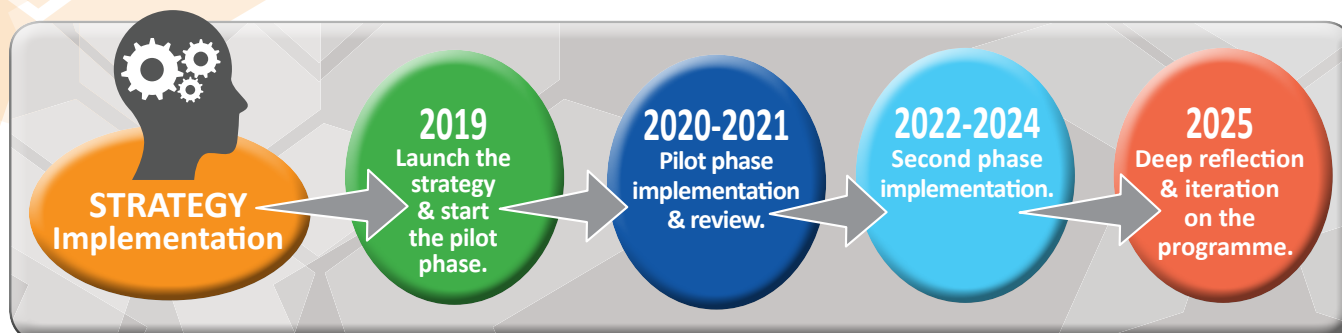
The Kamvalethu Foundation's purpose and strategic direction has global relevance in the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, where ECD is incorporated across most SDG's but most notably goal number four: *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.* (9)



Above: Nurturing care for early childhood development: a framework for helping children survive and thrive to transform health and human potential (7)



The **South African National Development Plan (NDP)** includes a target of achieving universal and equitable ECD by 2030. The commitment to this appears to have deepened in the 2019 State of the Nation Address where sitting South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa, committed to making two years of ECD compulsory for every child in the country.



### References

- (1) Statistics South Africa. (2016)
- (2) World Bank. (2014); UNICEF. (2013)
- (3) Hernandez. (2010); Spear Specialist Earnings. (2019)
- (4) Spear Specialist Earnings. (2019)

- (5) Nelson. (2000)
- (6) PIRLS. (2016); Spaull. (2017)
- (7) World Health Organization. (2018)
- (8) South African Early Childhood Review. (2017)
- (9) United Nations. (2015)