

PROFILE

Jennifer is an Educator and Entrepreneur. She is Founder and Principal of Mindstretch Preschool. She is the only certified HANDLE (Holistic Approach to Neuro-Development and Learning Efficiency) Practitioner in South Africa who has completed the advanced training and is affiliated with The HANDLE Institute, USA (handle.org).

With over 20 years in education, Jennifer has dedicated her career to assisting children with learning and behaviour challenges. She is expert in early child development.

- Over a decade delivering tailored therapeutic plans for children and young adults, with delivery of programmes both nationally and internationally.
- Over 65 educational workshops, delivered nationally and internationally. These include events for the South African Departments of Basic Education and Higher Education and Training, HPCSA (Health Professions Council of South Africa) and SACE (South African Council of Educators) accreditation awarded to select courses.
- Founded Mindstretch Preschool for mild to moderately challenged learners with the aim of facilitating inclusive education. Previously founded Funda Fun, a movement-based extramural playgroup.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Founder and Director of Mindstretch, Cape Town

2004 – PRESENT

Jennifer has worked with children and young adults presenting with diverse learning and behaviour challenges and developmental disabilities. Her special interest is assisting children with autism spectrum disorders. She launched Mind stretch Preschool in 2014 in order to help these children:

- Mindstretch Preschool provides a nurturing, therapeutic and educational environment for children with mild to moderate learning challenges, with provision for those on the autism spectrum. A range of classes serve different learners and ages in an individualised, needs-led manner. www.mindstretch.co.za

A sub-selection of Mindstretch programme highlights:

2020: Launched the Mindstretch Remote Outreach Programme within three days of the Covid-19 lockdown: including individual check-in and four tailored activity sheets per week.

2015-2020: Launched several new classes in a needs-led manner.

2014: Launched Mindstretch Preschool for children with learning challenges.

2013: SACE-accredited educator's workshop *Overcoming Barriers to Learning*, with many other seminars and workshops delivered, including for Autism South Africa and SAGSA (South African Girls' Schools Association).

2013: Introduced Mindstretch to the Mauritian Ministry of Education; included delivering therapy to autistic learners in Mauritius.

2013: Implemented a support project for hearing impaired students at the King Sabata Dalindyebo FET (Further Education and Training) College, Eastern Cape.

2012: Trained and mentored over 60 nurses and carers at Woodside Special Needs Centre, Cape Town.

2011: Delivered training for the Eden and Central Karoo Education District.

2010-2012: Delivered training for FET Colleges in the Eastern Cape, with a focus on barriers to learning, cognitive screening and curriculum adaptation.

2010: Developed a *Cognitive Screening Tool* for application at FET Colleges: an accessible test to help guide students in select appropriate vocational studies.

2009-2010: Presented multiple HANDLE seminars (HPCSA accredited) in all key South African provinces.

2009-2010: Programme of work for the Western Cape Education Department. A 2010 special initiative involved assisting Metropole South Education District in introducing HANDLE to all their full-service schools.

2009-2010: Ran two charity initiatives, including assistance for children at the Agape School for cerebral palsy learners and the Alpha School for children with Autism, with dedicated follow-up over a 12-month period.

2008: Keynote speaker at the conference of Principals Association of South Africa (PASA). Also delivered HANDLE training in Mumbai, India.

Founder and Director of Funda Fun, Johannesburg

2000 – 2004

An extramural movement-based playgroup designed to stimulate learning through fun, interactive activities targeting gross and fine motor skills.

(1999 - career sabbatical to raise twin daughters)

Teacher (Grades 1-7), Johannesburg

2001 – 2004

Director at Lifestyle Promotions cc, Durban

1996 – 1998

Educator at Natal Heart Foundation, Durban

1992 – 1995

EDUCATION

Certified HANDLE Practitioner – Advanced Certification, The HANDLE Institute, Oregon, USA

2004

Higher Education Diploma, University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

1991

Bachelor of Arts, University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

1990

LINKS

[Mindstretch Preschool](#) | [The HANDLE Institute](#) | [Mindstretch Facebook Page @mindstretch.co.za](#)