

South Africa Update April 2016

The last Froebel Trust funded visit to Soweto was in March 2015. The final Froebel Trust visit will be in October 2016. To prepare for this Professors Tina and Ian Bruce visited in March 2016.

The school in Soweto now has a flourishing organic vegetable garden, which enhances the food programme provided by the local Social Development Agency. It provides mealies (corn on the cob) tomatoes, spinach and herbs for the school kitchen. The curriculum and pedagogy uses Froebelian practices from which the Froebelian principles are extracted and discussed. Because of the generous funding of the David Montefiore Trust via the Froebel Trust, staff are beginning to undertake training which is part of the South African National Framework of Qualifications. They are building on the Froebelian training provided by our volunteer team over several years. The school now has an expanded Board and the governance of the school is developing with strength.

The Froebel Trust team have developed good links with PRAESA in Cape Town (the international Astrid award winning organisation encouraging children in a love of reading, stories and literature) and with the Universities of Johannesburg and Cape Town. There are plans to develop this work so that the Froebelian approach is further disseminated. This will use the [ABCD \(asset based community development\)](#) framework through a joint conference.