

GAUTENG COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

ASP's Serving Learners Beyond The Classroom

October 2023

This Community of Practice (CoP) hosted by [Outreach Foundation](#) zoomed into the [Lights On After School Campaign](#) to draw attention to how ASPs support learners by offering them opportunities to learn new things and unlock their potential. This year's theme was "Rally for After School Programmes", and participants in the CoP made commitments that would be driven by their various organisations for Lights On After School.

These included:



Creating posters and artwork to be shared as part of social media campaigns to spotlight After School.



Hosting a community rally/walk with the learners and parents to create an awareness of the programme in the community.



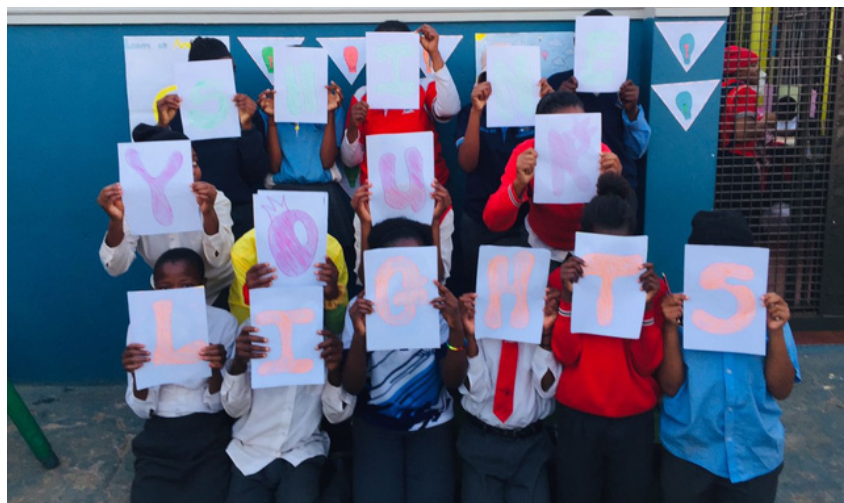
Speaking on community radios to share their programmes and the importance of after-school programmes.



Holding an event celebrating Lights On After School Day to showcase learners' sports, arts and music talents.



Hosting a flash mob at a school and getting the learners involved.





What does taking learning beyond the classroom mean to me?

The Community of Practice (CoP), focused on how After School Programmes (ASPs) can serve learners beyond the classroom by exploring how ASPs can provide learners with holistic development opportunities, from extra-curricular activities such as academic tutoring, literacy and numeracy support programmes, sport and recreational activities, arts and culture, and life skills programmes. For instance, Outreach offers music classes that teach learners to play the marimba and piano. There is a food garden that cultivates agricultural development in learners and skills development programmes such as pottery.

Participants from various organisations around Gauteng interrogated what taking learners beyond the classroom means to them:

"It is about moving learners from the streets, into programmes that will be beneficial for their wellbeing."

"Focusing on closing the academic gap some learners might face in the classroom, while boosting self confidence and building social skills."

"It is about creating safe learning spaces for all and meeting every child's learning needs, despite any learning barriers that they might face."

"Taking learning beyond the classroom is inclusive; everyone is seen and has a voice."

"It involves meeting every child's learning needs, despite any learning barriers that they might face."

"Offering activities such as sports, arts, and e-learning that many schools in the townships do not offer."



What is the value of developing learners beyond the classroom?

According to [TLT's Investment Case for After School Programmes](#) published in 2021, “as a result of unequal education and socio-economic injustice, children attending no- to low-fee schools (quintiles 1 to 3) are likely to fail minimum competency requirements for literacy and numeracy, repeat grades and drop out of school.” This highlights the need for additional support for learners attending these schools. After School Programmes provide that support with little or no support from government.

Practitioners at the CoP agreed that taking learning beyond the classroom is a necessity and something of value in the country that needs to be prioritised in terms of funding allocation and support. The value of having holistic programmes is clear as it equips learners from disadvantaged backgrounds for the future by bridging the learning gaps that they might face. ASP's also develop confidence in children so they are able to navigate society better and reach their full potential. The inclusion of sports, games, arts, gardening etc enables children to be children in safe spaces. This can in turn also allow children to discover their talents beyond formal schooling and academics.

How does my programme provide offerings to learners that promote taking learning beyond the classroom?

➤ **Kuhle Play Club** promotes learning through boosting learners' physical and mental wellbeing

➤ [Khula Unqobe Creative Arts](#) promotes children learning about themselves and the world

➤ [Skateistan](#) assists learners through academic support, youth leadership, a skate and create programme & psychosocial support.

➤ Beyond academic support, [Thuto Pele](#) has a nutrition programme provides food, a gym in their premises and offers life skills programmes facilitated by social workers.

➤ [Lalela Project](#) provides educational arts to spark learners creative side and awaken entrepreneurial spirit.

