

Transcript

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Teaching Diary South Africa

Hi, my name is Boosy Siway Doletule, a teacher at Winnie Ngwekazi Primary School in South Africa.

I am teaching grade 2. I have 22 boys and 12 girls.

An important part of the training was to encourage teachers to use real world situations and to use these to explore different curricular areas such as language and arithmetic. So, a trip to the main road became a way of introducing concepts, vocabulary and number.

I took them today ... main road ... to see different kinds of transport. They come to them ... name the colours, count the wheels and a lot, lot more. After that I take them inside a classroom and we do some mathematics, multiplication, divisions, subtractions. I find it very, very easy to assess them if they saw things in reality ... then my next project was to invite all the specialised transport into my school.

As it is now, August, it's very, very cold in South Africa. This time if I am going to start my lesson, I start by warming up my learners. We have some little exercises, clapping their hands and jumping. Because they don't have heaters in our schools, it's very, very cold and these people are coming from very poor backgrounds. Some of them don't have trousers or jackets to warm them up. Our classes are very, very cold. (Actuality) The children in my class come from a poor, poor background. Some of their parents are not working. There is no one working in the house ... in the family, so some of them don't even have even food to eat. So the school provides meal tickets – to get some bread and milk ... everyday. The children from poor families have a lot of problems because they don't get everything in the family. Some don't have pencils and exercise books, so as a teacher you have to see that they get all the equipment, but we do try parents' involvement, then by that involvement, then by that involvement they get encouraged and we motivate them to do something, then by doing something, they get materials they require.