



28 to 29 March – Southern Sun Elangeni

**OBJECTIVES AND AIMS OF THE BLEND SYMPOSIUM**

Welcome to the BLEND Symposium 2023. The BLEND Symposium is an opportunity for the KZN DoE and VVOB to share the learnings from the BLEND Pilot, expanding the reach of Learning Mathematics Through Play by dissemination of research, guidelines and the online course.

**DAY 1**

TIME	Item	Facilitator				
08:30 – 09:30	Tea and registration					
09:30 – 09:45	Program Director Introduces the Purpose of the Symposium	Gcina Mhlophe				
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome and Introductions	Wilfried Theunis: Country Manager, VVOB				
10:15 – 10:20	Teaser Video					
10:20 – 10:35	Address by Department of Education	Skhumbuzo Manganye: Acting Chief Director, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education				
10:35 – 10:50	Address by The Lego Foundation	Mandisa Melaphi, The LEGO Foundation				
10:50 – 11:05	Broad overview of Blend What is the BLEND Project?	Vanessa Mentor and Henre Benson: VVOB				
11:05 – 11:15	Lessons Learned presented by JET Education Services	Zahraa McDonald, JET Education Services				
11:15 – 11:45	<b>Morning Tea</b>					
11:45 – 12:00	Global BLEND Professional Learning Community for Continuous Professional Development and launch of the the BLEND-ON Guide	Henre Benson: VVOB				
12:00 – 12:15	BLEND Micro-Learning Units and the NICPD	Enoch Rabotapi: Department of Basic Education				
12:15 – 13:00	<p><a href="#">Experiencing Learning Through Play in Mathematics: Delegates Join one of 6 rooms for hands-on activities</a>            The 5 Characteristics of Learning Through Play (Joyful, Meaningful, Actively Engaging, Iterative, Socially Interactive) are threaded through and exemplified in each of the learning through play experiences</p>					
	<p><b>Reading Tree</b> Linking language, stories, and mathematics.</p>	<p><b>Re-Use / Re-Imagine</b> Use of recycled materials to create playful mathematic teaching and learning resources.</p>	<p><b>Buzzy Bee</b> Playful, gamified challenge, solving mathematical problems.</p>	<p><b>Shape of You</b> Work together to discover, make, and explore shapes and patterns.</p>	<p><b>Give and Take</b> Play games to explore mathematical concepts of counting, addition, subtraction and more.</p>	<p><b>The Playhouse (online showcase)</b> Explore the online Learning Foundational Mathematics Through Play course.</p>

<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch and Free Play</b>					
<b>14:00 – 14:45</b>	<b>Experiencing Learning Through Play in Mathematics: Delegates Join one of 6 rooms for hands-on activities</b> The 5 Characteristics of Learning Through Play (Joyful, Meaningful, Actively Engaging, Iterative, Socially Interactive) are threaded through and exemplified in each of the learning through play experiences					
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<b>14:55 – 15:40</b>	<b>Experiencing Learning Through Play in Mathematics: Delegates Join one of 6 rooms for hands-on activities</b> The 5 Characteristics of Learning Through Play (Joyful, Meaningful, Actively Engaging, Iterative, Socially Interactive) are threaded through and exemplified in each of the learning through play experiences					
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<b>15:40 – 16:00</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>					
<b>16:00 – 16:45</b>	<b>Experiencing Learning Through Play in Mathematics: Delegates Join one of 6 rooms for hands-on activities</b> The 5 Characteristics of Learning Through Play (Joyful, Meaningful, Actively Engaging, Iterative, Socially Interactive) are threaded through and exemplified in each of the learning through play experiences					
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<b>16:45 – 18:00</b>	<b>Free Time and Networking</b>					
<b>18:00 – 20:00</b>	<b>Cocktail Dinner</b>					



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**DAY 2**

TIME	Item	Facilitator
09:00 – 09:05	Opening/Welcome/ Check-in	Gcina Mhlophe
09:05 – 10:05	Panel Discussion: Multilingualism in Teaching and Learning Mathematics in the Foundation Phase Dr Lindiwe Tshuma   Ms Thami Mahlobo   Mrs Busisiwe Dladla	Moderator: Gerrit Coetsee: VVOB
10:05 –10:50	<a href="#">Experiencing Learning Through Play in Mathematics: Delegates Join one of 6 rooms for hands-on activities</a> The 5 Characteristics of Learning Through Play (Joyful, Meaningful, Actively Engaging, Iterative, Socially Interactive) are threaded through and exemplified in each of the learning through play experiences	
	<b>Reading Tree</b> Linking language, stories, and mathematics.	<b>Re-Use / Re-Imagine</b> Use of recycled materials to create playful mathematic teaching and learning resources.
10:50 – 11: 20	<b>Morning Tea + Free Play</b>	
	<a href="#">Experiencing Learning Through Play in Mathematics: Delegates Join one of 6 rooms for hands-on activities</a> The 5 Characteristics of Learning Through Play (Joyful, Meaningful, Actively Engaging, Iterative, Socially Interactive) are threaded through and exemplified in each of the learning through play experiences	
11:20 – 12:05	<b>Reading Tree</b> Linking language, stories, and mathematics.	<b>Re-Use / Re-Imagine</b> Use of recycled materials to create playful mathematic teaching and learning resources.
	<b>Buzzy Bee</b> Playful, gamified challenge, solving mathematical problems.	<b>Shape of You</b> Work together to discover, make, and explore shapes and patterns.
12:10 – 13:00	<b>Reflection</b>	
	<b>Ayanda Sithole</b>	
13:00 – 13:15	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perspective from DoE</li> <li>Thank you from VVOB</li> </ul>	<b>Busisiwe Dladla: KZN DoE</b> <b>Vanessa Mentor: VVOB</b>
13:15 – 13:30	The Story of Play	Gcina Mhlophe
13:30	<b>Lunch and Departure</b>	