

Blackieonamission - March 2016

You can contact me on...

E: blackieonamission@gmail.com

PO Box 1288 Kigali, Rwanda

PH: +250 784 444 742



Shared Reading

The Nursery children at Fruits of Hope Academy had some visitors from a local International School whose children came purely to read to the nursery children. It was so lovely to watch, they had been taught to turn the book around so the children can see the pictures. The visiting children had their own books and had obviously been practicing reading that one book. They followed their fingers as they sounded out each word and our nursery children sat and listened to every word being read!

Teacher Training

This term I have been teaching some games and how to implement them into the classroom as an educational activity. The top two photos are of an indoor game of water balloon volleyball, which unfortunately didn't last for too long as the first balloon used broke on the floor! The outdoor game was an hour lesson in teamwork and how important working together to achieve a common goal is. This was a new concept to 'learn' outside the classroom for some teachers and so a lot of discussion was prompted about feeling uncomfortable etc. It was a fantastic lesson and one that the teachers are still talking about.



I was so excited to see that Teacher Beatrice had implemented one of my games to teach her class some French numbers.



Happy St. Patrick's Day cupcake – March 17th!

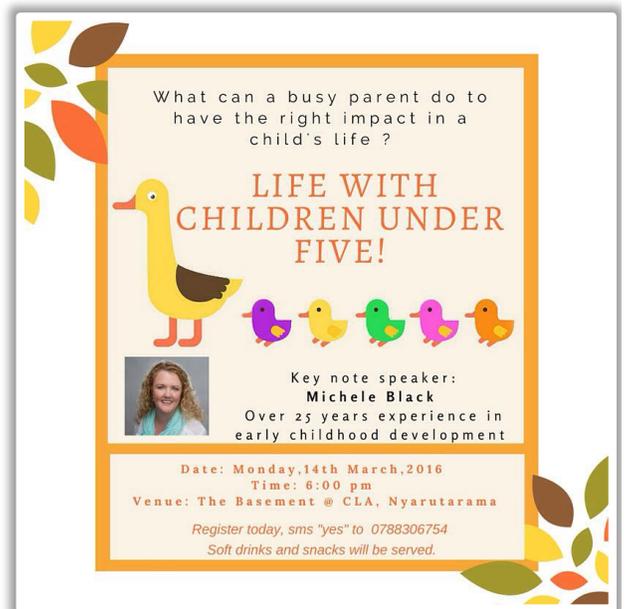


Education and the Early Years

I was asked to be the 'keynote' speaker at a parent meeting for Education and the Early Years. They were expecting 30 people, catered for 50 and had 88 turn up, as well as the local T.V station - just a little bit of pressure! The week before I had one lady ask me where she knew me from and as we talked she realized that it was my face on the flyer that she had recognized! From this night I have also been invited to share at other events, I am hesitant to lock anything in just yet as I feel I need to prioritise my time and not become too over committed.

Education and the Early Years

The whole reason I am in Rwanda is to develop a curriculum that will be approved by the Rwandan Education Board so a Teacher Training College can be established. At this point there is not any formal teacher training colleges for Early Years and it is becoming clearer and clearer that there is such a great need for one. People are building nursery schools all over the country but there are no trained nursery teachers to staff them. I heard a statistic just this week that 54% of Rwandans are under the age of 19 and 39.1% of Rwandans live below the poverty line.



Swimming on Sundays...

Sunday afternoons have quickly turned into swimming lesson afternoon. I have been giving some basic lessons like how to put her head in the water and kick your legs to two Rwandan little friends. We often meet our other friend Josie who I actually taught at preschool in Sydney, so she comes and joins us too on a Sunday and we all have a ball!

Baby Flora

Yes, she is just lovely and an absolute joy of a baby to love and care for. This photo was taken on Easter Sunday, with her brand new Easter bunny blanket sent over in the mail. She is now four months and three weeks and last Saturday she started eating some solids, which she devours. We are very blessed to have Lea who comes to care for Flora each day while I go to work and write nursery curriculum. Flora sees her Dad once if not twice a week and always greets him with lots of smiles and giggles. She is trying to sit up but still topples over nearly every time.



My March Visitor

Flora and I had another special visitor during March and we loved our time together, driving up to Musanze and waiting while she went to see the gorilla's. Our three bedroom house is certainly proving itself to be a good choice with so many lovely visitors - I wonder who's face will feature in the April newsletter! Will it be yours?

In March last year

For those of you not on facebook, it gives you a 'one year ago' reminder of what you were doing last year. Well on Monday it reminded me that we launched 'A dollar a day to send Blackie on her way!' Since I'm already here and if you're enjoying life in Australia with me so far away, maybe you might like to consider, 'A dollar a day to **KEEP** Blackie away?' If so, please visit my website blackieonamission.com

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