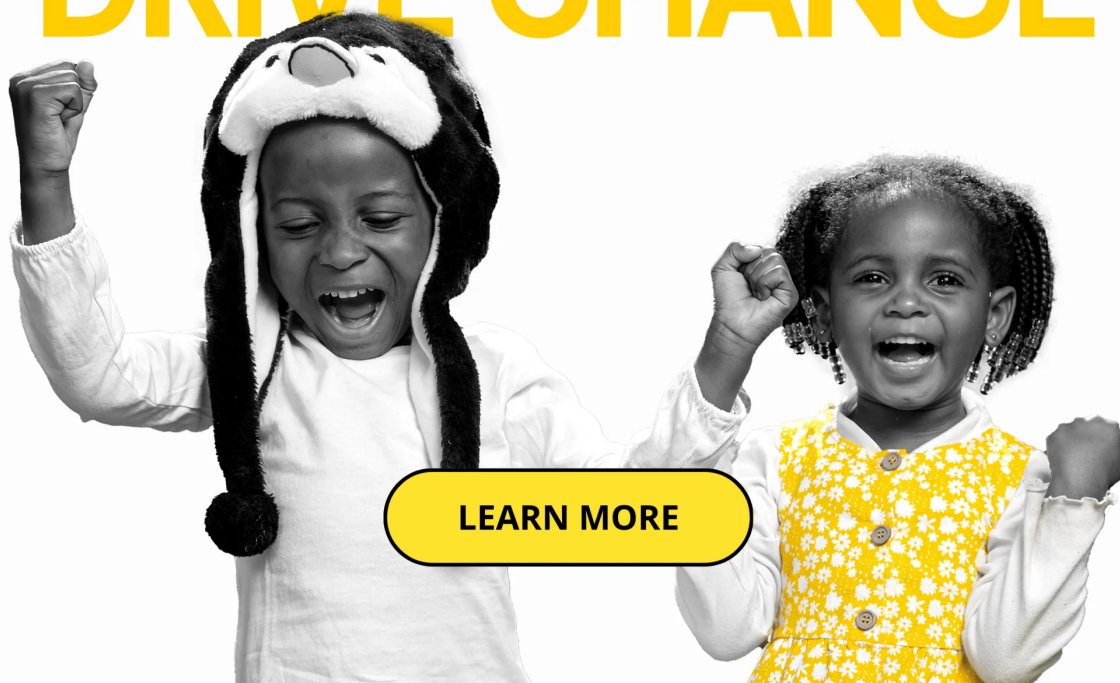




JOIN US IN USING DATA TO DRIVE CHANGE



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Dear partner,

DataDrive2030 continued to strengthen South Africa's early learning ecosystem during the quarter by connecting evidence, workforce capability, and practitioner action. Across engagements in Gauteng and workforce development initiatives nationally, the organisation demonstrated how reliable data and skilled professionals support better decision-making for young children. These activities reinforce that data

only creates value when it is collected with quality, interpreted carefully, and applied to improve practice.

A key milestone was the presentation of the *Thrive by Five Index 2024* findings to more than 120 Early Childhood Development (ECD) principals and practitioners at the Gauteng Young Child Forum colloquia. Outcomes still remain closely linked to poverty, programme quality, and unequal access to resources. Participants explored practical strategies to strengthen learning environments, support children's development, and use data to guide continuous improvement.

Supporting these trusted insights is DataDrive2030's **Workforce Warriors**. During the quarter, accredited Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) 4&5 and Learning Programme Quality Assessment (LPQA) training, strengthened quality assurance processes, improved operational systems, and the development of a new workforce management platform remained strategic priorities. Together, these investments ensure assessment data is reliable, consistent, and fit for programme improvement and system-level decision-making.

The quarter also highlighted the vital role of ELOM trainers in maintaining data quality. Beyond technical instruction, trainers provide mentorship and quality assurance that enable organisations to build accredited assessment teams capable of collecting high-quality evidence. Collectively, these initiatives reinforce DataDrive2030's role as a trusted data and insight partner, ensuring robust evidence informs better decisions and improved outcomes for young children.

The stories in this edition show how these investments are translating into action across the sector.

FEATURED

Data-driven discussions inspire action for young children in Gauteng



Dr Caylee Cook, Research Manager at DataDrive2030, recently presented findings from the *Thrive by Five Index 2024* at two Gauteng Young Child Forum colloquia hosted by the Do More Foundation and its implementation partner, the African Children's Feeding Scheme (ACFS).

Held in Boksburg and Randfontein on 24 and 25 June, the sessions brought together more than 120 ECD principals and practitioners to explore what the latest evidence means for improving children's development.

Dr Cook contextualised the study by starting with the national picture where 42% of children are developmentally On Track for early learning per the *Index* data. However, many children still enter school without the foundational skills they need to thrive. A practical demonstration illustrating the proportions of children who are On Track, Falling Behind and Falling Far Behind brought these statistics to life, highlighting the

urgent need for continued support.

✕ [Read more about the evidence presented and the practical strategies practitioners identified](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



DataDrive2030's Workforce Warriors: Building a Trusted Early Learning Assessment Team



Behind every trusted dataset is a team of dedicated professionals committed to operational rigour, ethical data collection and standardised quality assurance. At DataDrive2030, this operational engine is driven by our Workforce Warriors team – which recruits, trains, accredits and manages a national network of highly skilled ELOM field assessors. These frontline professionals ensure that every child assessment is conducted with consistency, professionalism and care. The work may happen behind the scenes, but its impact reaches far beyond the field. The quality of South Africa's early childhood evidence depends on the quality of the people collecting it.

Discover how we go about recruiting, training, accrediting and supporting this cohort to produce trusted, human-centred data.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Value of ELOM Trainers



The Workforce Warriors, our team of Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) assessors and trainers are essential to supporting the administration of assessments. Their work ensures that the process yields reliable, evidence-based data to drive meaningful change in the

ECD sector. Trainers provide on-the-ground fieldwork readiness support in the data value chain to ensure the effective administration of ELOM tools and the collection of high-quality data.

Liezl Worship, DataDrive2030's Master Trainer, recently shared what she does. With over twenty years of experience as an Occupational Therapist in the disability, education, NGO, and ECD sectors, Liezl provided valuable insights into the role of trainers.

She explained that the primary value for an organisation is the creation of a quality, accredited workforce capable of collecting reliable data. This allows organisations to improve the quality of their programmes and centres.

✕ [Read more about how ELOM trainers build capable teams and support the collection of trusted data](#)

NEW RESOURCES

**NEW RESOURCE**

ELOM 4&5 TECHNICAL MANUAL (5TH EDITION)

**How can we
ensure early
learning
assessment data
is reliable, fair and
meaningful?**

The **ELOM 4&5 Technical Manual (5th Edition)** provides the evidence behind one of South Africa's leading early learning assessment tools. It explains how ELOM 4&5 was developed, validated and standardised, offering guidance on scoring, interpretation and the responsible use of assessment data.

ELOM 4&5 Technical Manual (5th Edition):

The latest edition includes expanded evidence on language fairness across South Africa's diverse linguistic contexts, supporting researchers, programme implementers, funders and decision-makers to generate and use trusted data to strengthen early learning systems.



Closing the Data Gap: What DataDrive2030 Is Exploring for Children Living with Disabilities

According to UNICEF's 2021 report, *Seen, Counted, Included*, **children with disabilities are 25% less likely to attend early learning programmes** than children without disabilities.

Measurement tools and assessment systems are currently not designed to assess children living with disabilities. **With over 1.4 million children aged 0–4 living with disabilities in South Africa**, there needs to be greater consideration of this demographic within the assessment system.

This creates a vicious cycle: the lack of reliable data on children living with disabilities makes it harder to prioritise and invest in the structures that they need. As a result, these children remain underrepresented in data and under-resourced by the system, widening the gap even further.

Earlier this year, DataDrive2030 completed a three-phase scoping study aimed at addressing existing data gaps by assessing the feasibility and appropriateness of expanding our suite of tools to include children living with disabilities.

The study focused on two key areas:

- a) Defining disability: establishing a definition of disability through using an appropriate framework.
- b) Reviewing Assessment Tools: evaluating international ECD assessment tools to identify existing opportunities and determine what would suit and work in the South African context.

DataDrive2030 continues to seek approaches to support and build data visibility in systems for children living with disabilities. No child should be excluded or left behind.

[LEARN MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Webinar

DD2030-Ilifa-RESEP

Can early assessments help us better understand which children are ready for school and where additional support is needed?

**5 August 2026 | 11 am
(SAST)**

REGISTER

Join Dr Jurgen Becker, Chief Research Scientist at AX Group, and Dr Heleen Hofmeyr, Senior Researcher at RESEP, as they share their insights on South Africa's school readiness system and the factors that influence learning outcomes.

DataDrive2030

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