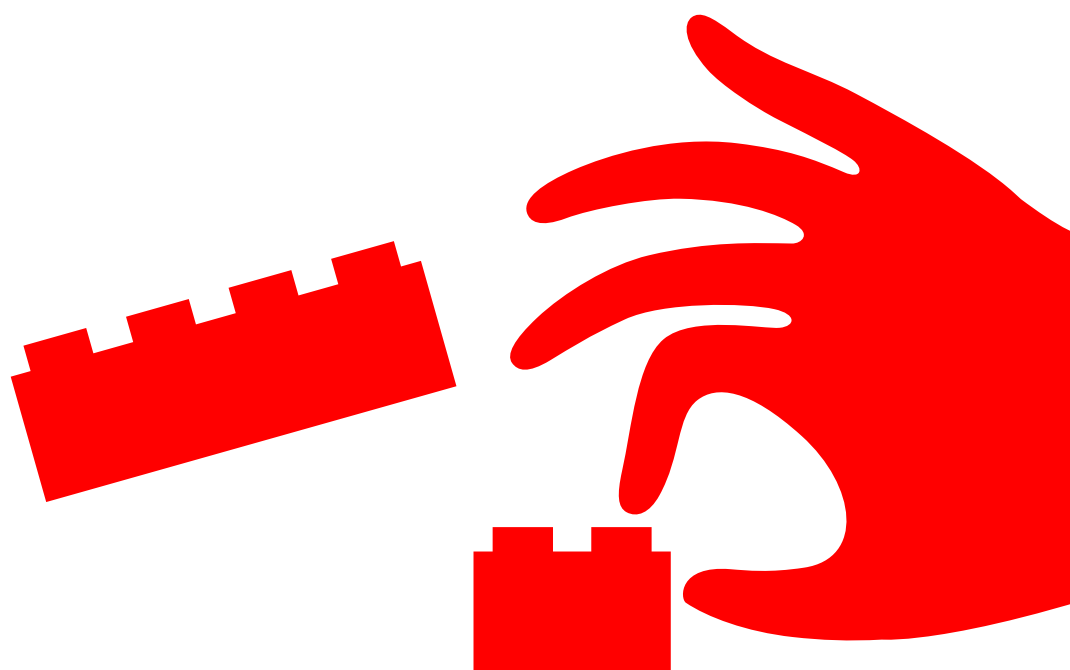


PLAY
INCLUDED



Building children's language and communication skills in Kenya Brick-by-Brick[®]

Lisa is Co-Founder of Bee Heard Kenya and a Speech and Language Therapist with over 15 years' experience working with both children and adults.

Lisa and the Bee Heard Kenya team support children in international and local schools, Kenyan centres, and other organisations to develop their speech and language skills through their work as Speech and Language Therapists.

When Lisa learned about Play Included and the Brick-by-Brick[®] programme, she recognised that the majority of the children she works with would benefit in some way from the collaborative LEGO[®] play programme especially because it “complements the activities we do in Speech Therapy.”

Many children find play motivational and engaging, and Lisa is enthusiastic about sharing the importance of play for children's learning and development with teachers and parents.

The playful approach of the Brick-by-Brick[®] programme appealed to her and she believes that “the approach can be used with every child” she works with to help them to develop their speech, language, communication, and social skills. Most importantly, it is fun for the children.

Initiating and facilitating

Lisa completed the Certified Facilitator e-learning in 2021 before completing her Advanced Facilitator training, in-person, in London in August 2022. Lisa's colleagues at Bee Heard Kenya also completed the virtual Certified Facilitator training to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Brick-by-Brick[®] programme.

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Lisa is particularly impressed with the ongoing support that she receives from Play Included, including remote Drop-in sessions and peer support as well as regular communication: “We keep in contact on social media and have a lot of messages going back and forth.”

Establishing a Brick Club

After completing the Brick-by-Brick® programme training, the Bee Heard Kenya team delivered the first Brick Club pilot in Kenya, in Nairobi, and continues to offer two Brick Clubs per week. Lisa identified two groups of three children who would benefit from the Brick-by-Brick® programme’s approach. Lisa notes: “We already knew the children from our Speech and Language Therapy work, and so we were able to put the groups together depending on the children’s skill sets.”

One club was for children aged five to six years old and the other was for children aged six to nine years old. One third of the children taking part are autistic and, while the children all have different profiles, they all need additional support with their communication, speech, and language skills.

The sessions take place on a Monday and Wednesday after school at Bee Heard Kenya’s therapy centre. Lisa explains that “the clubs are being run within the therapy space, but we are using the Brick-by-Brick® programme approach with some of the children we work with in 1:1 sessions within the school setting.”



Skills development

Lisa notes that there are many positive outcomes for students who attend Brick Club:

“Some of the developments we have seen are active listening, language learning, and helping each other to problem solve. The group consistently works together to solve problems and we had a lovely session recently, where we didn’t do much building, but we talked through difficult situations and problem solving.”

Visual aids are used to help support the children to talk about their feelings in Brick Club and Lisa is pleased to see that the students “implement strategies they learn in Brick Club in the classroom.”

What’s next?

“The engagement that we have had has just been brilliant,” says Lisa. She is now looking forward to working with Play Included to expand the number of Brick Clubs available to children in Kenya and beyond as well as continuing to support the children she currently works with.

The Brick-by-Brick® programme is now available in Kenya. Register your interest by emailing: bookings@playincluded.com.

