

# PEBBLES GOOD NEWS

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Pebbles  
Project

CHANGING  
LIVES

## *Early Childhood Development Programme*

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### NYDENE'S CHILDHOOD DREAM COMES TRUE



Nydene working in the Pebbles Project ECD centre

22-year-old Nydene grew up on Niel Joubert wine farm where she lives with her uncle. As a baby, Nydene attended the Pebbles Project Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre on the farm. When she turned six, she joined the Pebbles Project After-School Club.

When the Pebbles Project Support Teacher at the After-School Club noticed that Nydene presented with barriers to learning, she assisted Nydene in enrolling into Dorothea school. Dorothea school is situated in Stellenbosch and was established to meet the needs of handicapped children and children with special educational needs.

Nydene has always dreamed of working with children. She says: “When I was a little girl, I would walk past the Pebbles ECD centre on the farm and dream of working inside the centre one day. It was my heart’s biggest desire to work for Pebbles and to work with the children.”

After she finished school, her uncle reached out to the Pebbles Project Community Cluster Manager who oversees the work of Pebbles Project on Niel Joubert wine farm. Nydene’s uncle inquired whether there was a position available for Nydene to work at the ECD centre. Nydene volunteered at the ECD centre for 6 months and was later employed full-time.

Nydene works as a First Thousand Days (FTD) assistant and assists the ECD practitioners with taking care of the babies.

Nydene loves working at the Pebbles Project ECD centre. She says: “It is my passion to work with children, especially to look after the babies. I also enjoy working with the other practitioners. We make a great team and we enjoy working together. I can’t see myself working anywhere else.”

Nydene is proud of herself. She says: “I am very proud of the work that I do. My family is also very proud of how far I’ve come...”

Nydene feels that Pebbles Project had a positive impact on her life. She says: **“Pebbles is made up of a team of people who look at who you are as a person and really try to find a way for you to shine and make a success out of your life. Pebbles made my childhood dream come true. If it wasn’t for Pebbles, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”**

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***For more information or to contribute to this programme,  
please visit: [www.pebblesproject.org](http://www.pebblesproject.org)***