

My name is Linea. I am 26 years old and I finished my studies for education at the end of September 2016, in Lüneburg.

Before I began to work in a German school, I was very interested to get to know more parts of our world.

I can't really tell why but I always wanted to see the African continent. I had hoped for it my whole life. By chance, my email (in which I asked for a job as a volunteer, where I can work with children) was read by Lene, and she replied.

Looking back at the three months at Thuthukani Preschool I see that the children taught me a lot. I learned to see life in a different way, from a different point of view. From the special child's point of view. I'm very happy about my gained experience and I will take this new outlook with me when I start my new work in school, back home in Germany.

Of course, there were difficult situations with the children, but Thuthukani Preschool's slogan "If children don't learn the way we teach, we will teach them the way they learn" helped me a lot.

An example that comes to mind:

In the last weeks of my volunteer time, one boy who has Autism, who can't speak, held the stilts in his hand and swung them around himself. Very often, I let him play and explore as he pleased, because he was usually happy doing just that. But time and again, I showed him how to use the stilts correctly. His balance was very good, so he didn't have problems to stay on it. But he couldn't hold the ropes tight enough. This was the point where he needed my help. We repeated it over and over again and sometimes he turned his face, looked at me and smiled very proudly. Without being able to speak, he could say what he wanted. He could show his excitement. Everyone could see that.

That was only one situation. There were so many more.

My time at Thuthukani Preschool and with the family Schnackenberg, brings back happy feelings, memories and pictures. It was a good idea to take this time out between studying and starting to work.

Thank you for everything!!! Every single one of you and every child 'changed' me in a special way!