



THE OLIVE TREE

Where love grows



GIVE A LITTLE. HELP A LOT DONATE NOW

ABOUT US

The Olive Tree is a specialised school and therapy centre in Potchefstroom, South Africa, catering for the specific and individual needs of learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The Olive Tree school was inspired by a family with daughter who has ASD. With no school or facility catering for these children they identified the need to establish such a place and in turn to help others in a similar situation.

As a non-profit organisation, we rely on the support of the local and international community to help us give these children and their families what they need - a happy and safe space with quality support, training and programmes, that will allow them to grow in confidence and maximise their skills and potential.

With your support we can fulfil these needs and continue to grow our little school, make a difference and contribute to the community.

OUR DETAILS

NPC No: NPC 2022 / 306399 / 08
Name : The Olive Tree School
Bank : Investec Bank Limited
Branch : 100 Grayston Drive Sandton
Branch Code : 580105
Acc No : 50017920302



THE OLIVE TREE

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD



The Olive Tree is a private, specialised school and aftercare centre catering for the specific and individual needs of learners who have Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Olive Tree aims to deliver a well-balanced, personalised programme which addresses the specific needs of every unique learner. Each class will have a maximum of seven learners with one teacher, and one assistant, presenting the interactive program which includes 1:1 therapy and group learning opportunities.

Group therapies included in the curriculum include Speech and language therapy, Occupational therapy, Recreational therapy, Brain Training and Child Kinetics. Our sensory room is designed to have a calming effect that reduces anxiety and improves focus.

The Olive Tree offers a full-day programme from 07h30 to 13h30 along with an aftercare facility from 13h30 to 17h15.

For more information, or to receive application forms, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our Vision

To provide children with ASD a happy and safe quality support, training and programmes, that will allow grow in confidence and maximise their skills

Our Mission

- to provide a happy, safe and stimulating space for children with Autism in Potchefstroom.
- to provide a quality education through an autism-focused curriculum, competent and caring staff and strong family collaboration.
- to recognise every child's right to be supported in a joyful and nurturing learning environment that enables them to maximise their potential.
- to deliver an individualised curriculum that is designed for every child and their specific educational needs.
- to place an emphasis on communication, social skills, life skills and sensory development.
- to offer the highest quality therapy and group learning opportunities for each unique child.
- to build a supportive and protective team, collaborating with parents and offering support to the families.
- to celebrate differences and to promote an understanding of autism and inclusion in the wider community.

Our Values

- O** Opportunities : embrace every opportunity
- L** Love : love and be kind to one another
- I** Inspire: encourage and be positive
- V** Value : you are valuable, respect yourself and others
- E** Enjoy : have fun and live in the moment



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What's in a name?

Our name, The Olive Tree, was not only chosen for our school because of its rich and meaningful symbolism. The Olive Tree traditionally symbolises Peace, Friendship, Victory, Wisdom, Prosperity and Success, but the school is also named in honour of our daughter Olivia, who was diagnosed with Autism at the age of three.

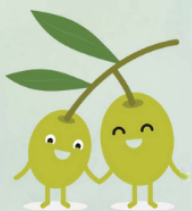
Our journey with Olivia has had its ups and downs, and comes with challenges. She led us from our planned parenthood journey, and instead took us on hers. Olivia has taught us that it is OK to be different and that different does not mean any less. She has taught us to view everyone as unique, individual human beings.

Olivia has reminded us to focus on happiness, and not to worry too much about what other people think. She made us realise that it doesn't matter if people judge, and that we are in fact her voice, we have to speak up for her. Olivia is non-verbal and so we have had to learn to be more aware of body language. She has shown us that joy and love can be expressed in so many ways. We love seeing her dance and the excitement she expresses while watching her favourites movies. But most of all, we love her hugs and kisses, and all the love she has to offer this world.

We are thankful of the lessons Olivia has taught us. We now understand that being different does not mean you cannot make a difference in this world. Olivia has made a difference in us, and that in itself is proof.

One of the greatest responsibilities and privileges of being a parent is to provide a great education for our children. This is not easy when it comes to children with special needs, especially in small communities such as Potchefstroom. Like any parent, we wanted to provide Olivia with the best possible schooling, but it soon became evident that there was a lack of facilities specially catering for children diagnosed with ASD. And so our dream was founded; to establish our own school right here in Potchefstroom.

The Olive Tree will provide Olivia with a caring and stimulating school environment where she can learn, play, laugh, love, develop and grow to reach her full potential. Our hope is that other children and families will benefit from this environment too; The Olive Tree School for children with ASD, where love grows.



*"It takes a village to raise a child.
It takes a child with Autism to
raise the consciousness of a village"*

ELAINE HALL

The Olive Tree School for Children with ASD opened in January 2022. For more information, please contact:

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