

JULY - AUGUST 2020

HOM.ED

The Homeschooling Magazine

TWIGA BOOKS

By Grace Waithira Kibe

**issue
Number 03**

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**THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
"SCHOOL AT HOME"
AND HOMESCHOOLING**

By Mary Muriuki

**THE BENEFITS OF
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES
ON COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
APPLICATIONS**


By Paddy Mwangi

**OUR
HOMESCHOOLING
JOURNEY**

By the Banta Family



African Musings:



A CHILD
BROUGHT UP
WHERE THERE
IS ALWAYS
DANCING CAN-
NOT FAIL TO
DANCE.

~Nyanja Proverb



HOM.Ed

Editorial Director **Mary Muriuki**

Copy Editor **Musa Asubuhi**

Creative Director **Mary Mwangi**

Design Director **Wairimu Kioko**

Features Editor **Olyvia Kimathi**

Contributing Writers

**Paddy Mwangi, Grace Waithira
Kibe, The Banta family**

Advertising enquiries

musa@wikipabu.co.ke

Editorial enquiries

musa@wikipabu.co.ke

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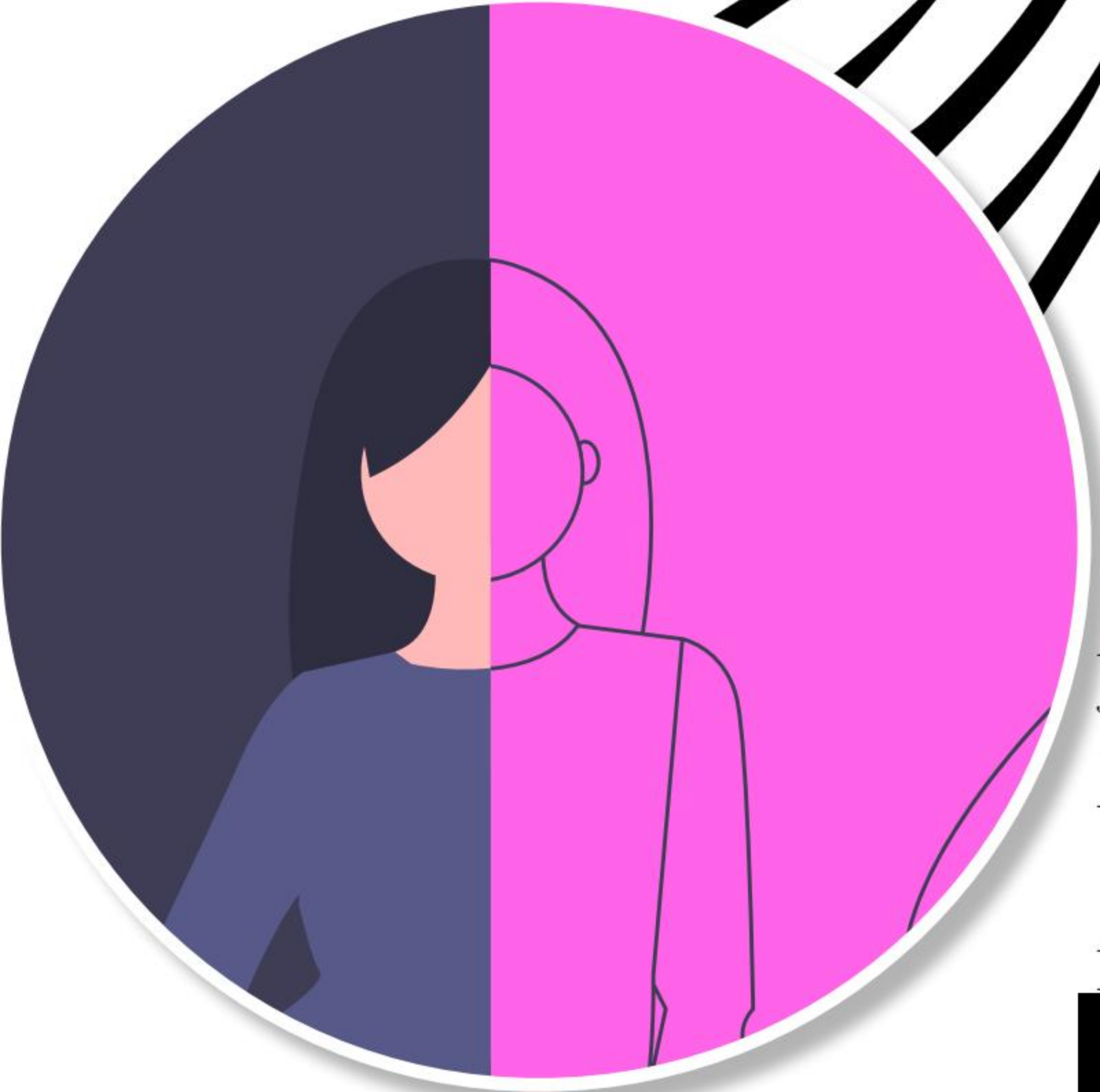
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Your Early Years Education Solution!

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Emphasis on letter and number recognition & formation. Introduction to 3 letter words

3-4 YEARS



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4-5 YEARS

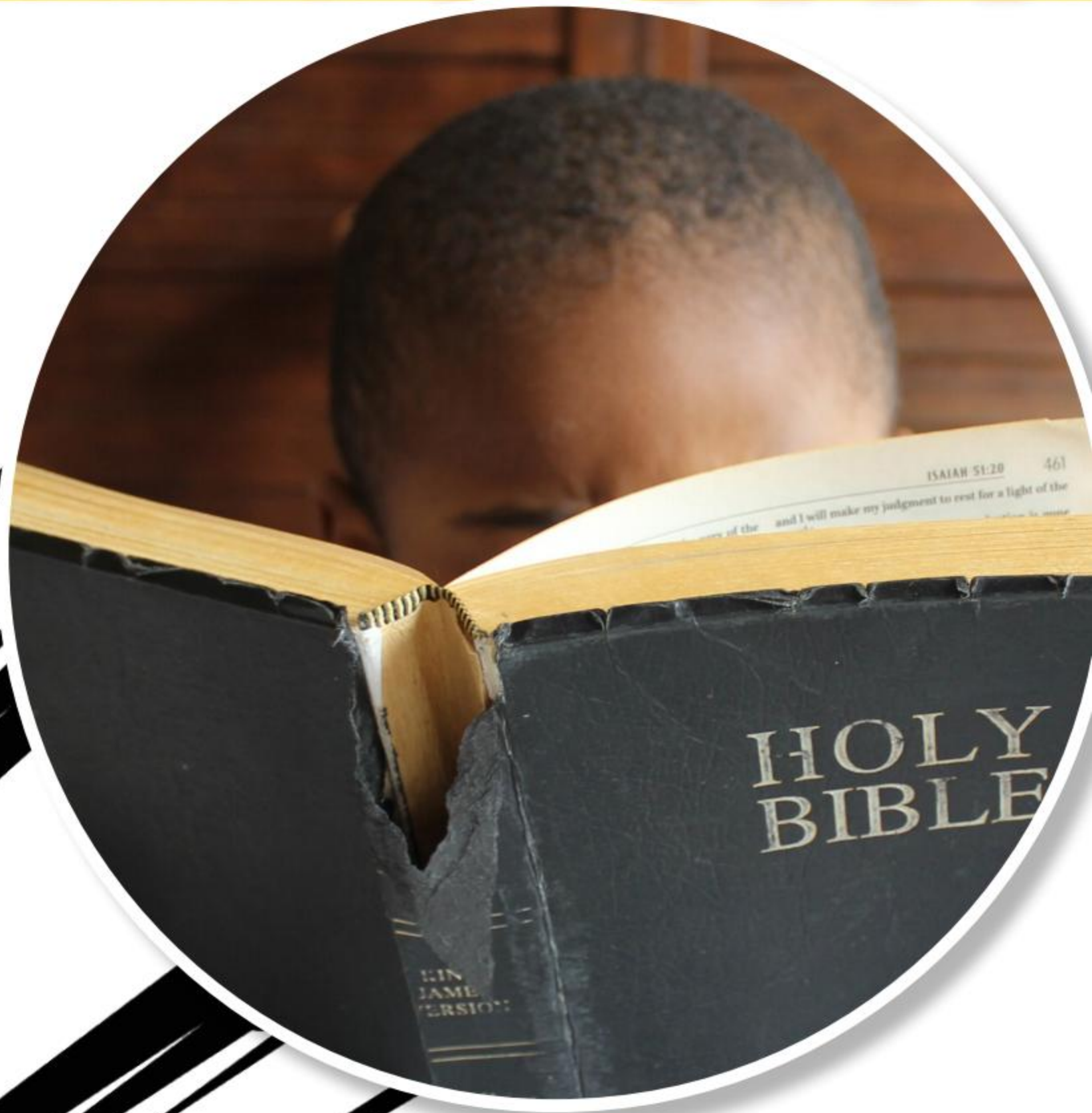


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Intense focus on reading

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GOD-GIVEN
DESTINY OF A
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OUR HOMESCHOOLING JOURNEY

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TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS...

Thank you

WE WANT TO SAY

FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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**TO OUR
READERS...**

**THANK
YOU!**



Editor's note:

Amongst the many joys of homeschooling is the advantage of using the whole house as your classroom. All the rooms in the house have functions and can be converted and used interchangeably as learning centers throughout the day. The 'most fun' are, as voted by all children, is the play area.



Welcome to our focus in this third issue of HOM.Ed.

On this 3rd edition of HOM.Ed, we are more than thrilled to explore the play area with you.

The play area is a space where children are free to have fun doing whatever they like best. A playroom, porch, verandah, garden, backyard, etc. could provide ample space for your child to express themselves and play to their hearts fill.

Play for children of all ages is key because it is at this time that they get to relax, unwind and let their minds wander to explore original thoughts and actions which really bring out who they are. On this 3rd edition of HOM. Ed, we are more than thrilled to explore the play area with you. 🎯



Mary Muriuki.





THE DIFFERENCES

“SCHOOL AT HOME”

Many parents have been introduced to online learning and homeschooling at the same time due to school closures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

By Mary Muriuki

ANCE BETWEEN ” AND HOMESCHOOLING

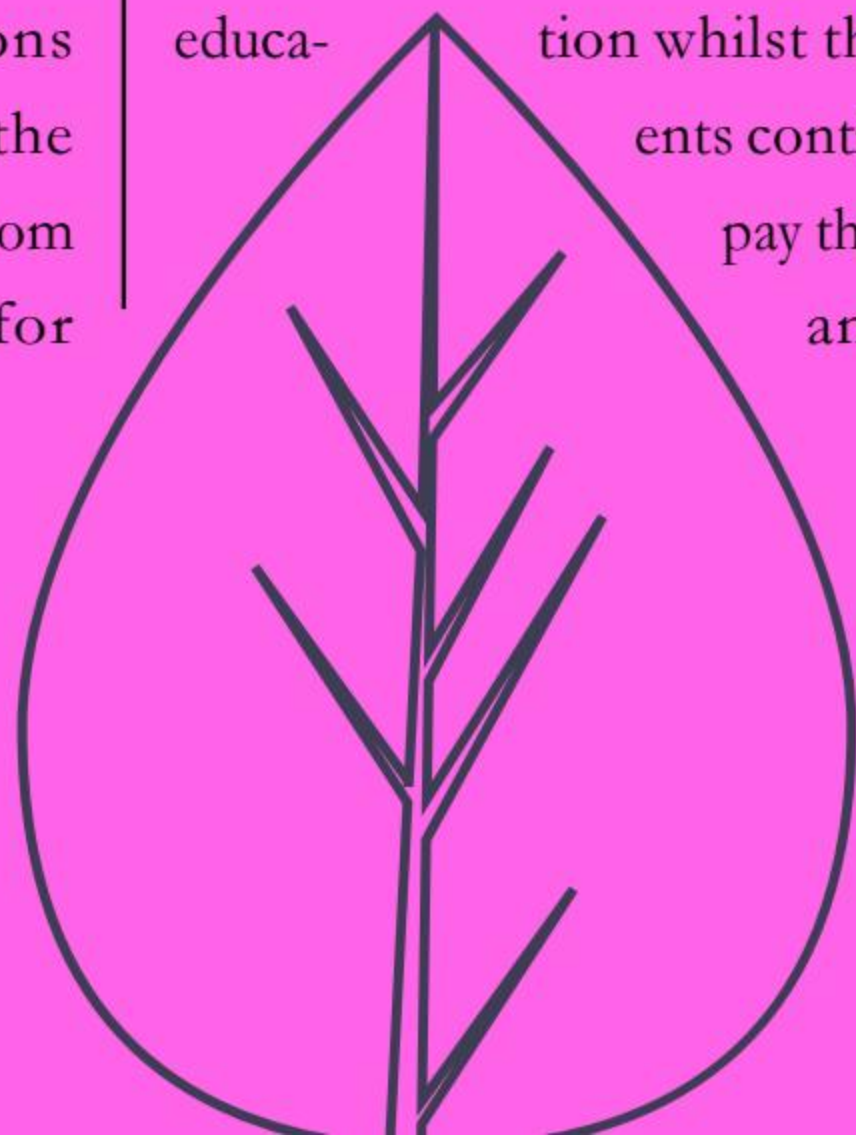


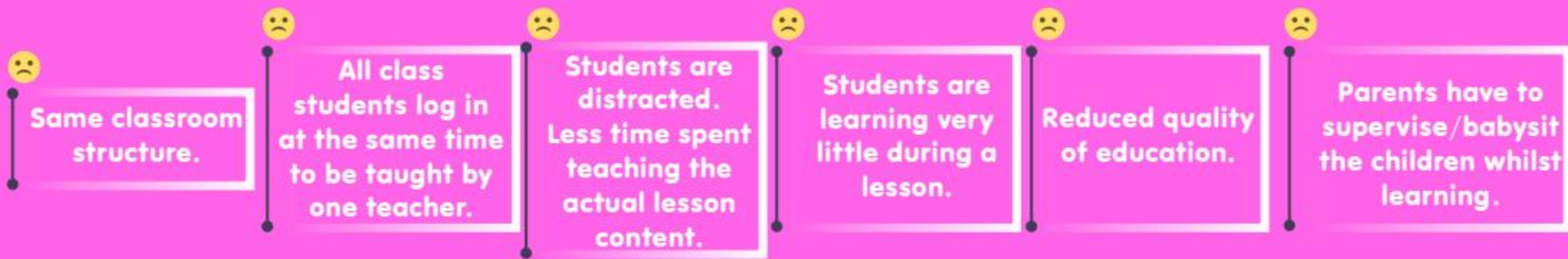
*M*ost of the schools currently offering online learning were not adequately prepared and so have had to quickly come up with a solution using basic online tools to replicate classroom learning at home.

There are different variations like using the same classroom structure for online

learning. All class students log in at the same time to be taught by one teacher who teaches the lesson live. However, most of the time during the online class is spent trying to manage the students at home who are distracted. With very little time spent teaching the actual lesson content, students are learning very little during a lesson. This has reduced the quality of educa-

tion whilst the parents continue to pay the same amount in





school fees. Parents also have to supervise/babysit the children whilst learning. The school hours are still the same as when they were attending school. This is what I call “School at Home” or crisis schooling brought about by

the current circumstances.

There is a difference between “School at Home” and Homeschooling.

The first and most important difference between these two terminologies is that the homeschooling schedule and time table is not dictated by anyone but the parents. They decide when the



Resources specifically created for homeschooling are usually made in a way that takes away the burden of teaching from the parent.





The homeschooling schedule and time table is not dictated by anyone but the parents.



Parents get to choose which curriculum to use, whether online or offline or both.



The students learn individually, at their own pace, and not in a group.

student should wake up, how many hours they will spend learning online and offline. They also decide when to take breaks, how long the breaks should be, when a school day will end, and how long the school term will run.

The second difference is that parents get to choose which curriculum to use, whether online or offline or both. They also get to choose the material to use, often they choose the material they can afford to purchase. Resources specifically created for homeschooling are usually made in a way that takes away the burden

of teaching from the parent. The material is self-explanatory, both for the parent/teacher and student. All the involved parties have to do is follow the well laid out



Parents also get to choose the tutor and how much they can afford to pay them.



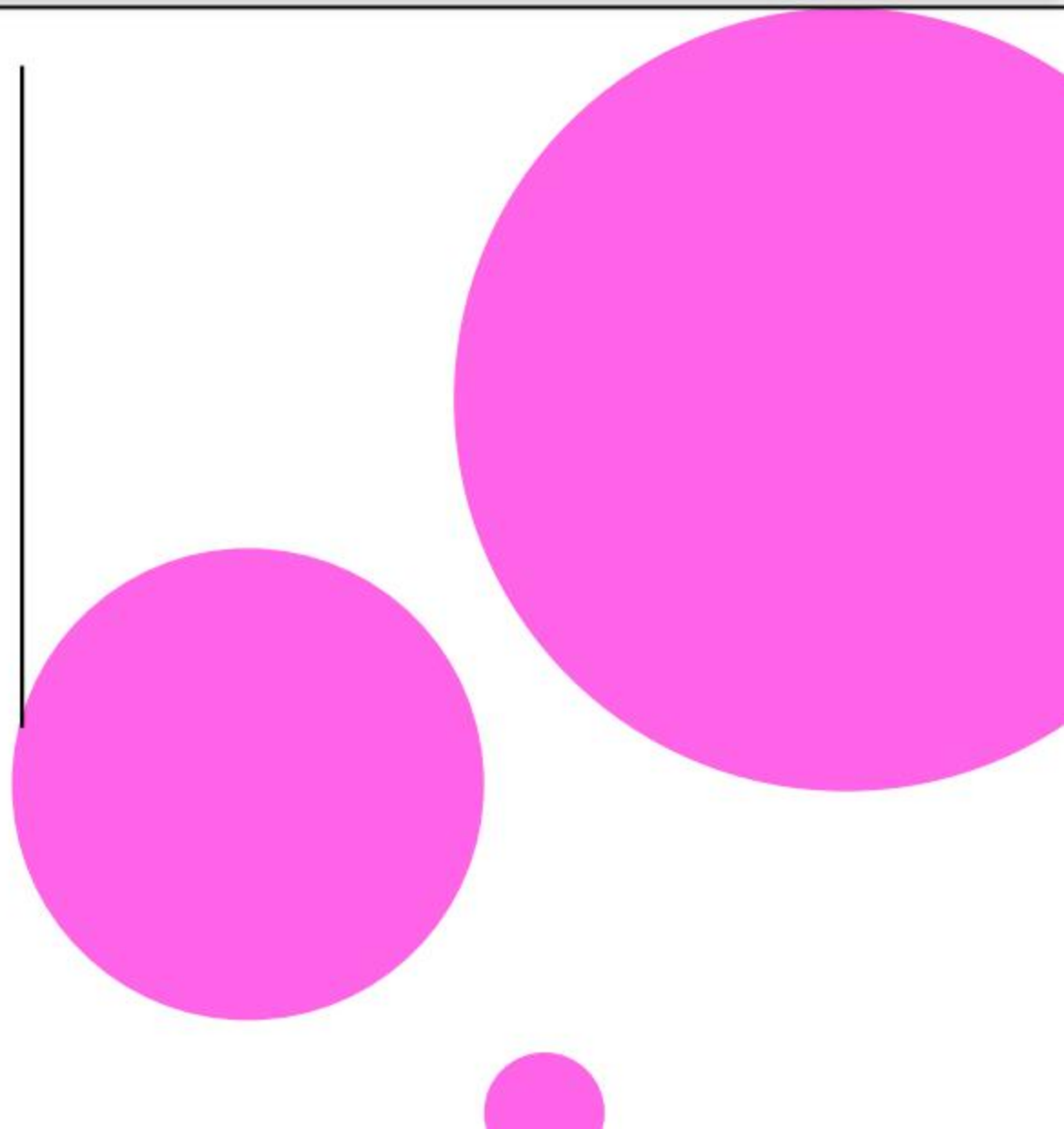
instructions. Usually, online lessons taught by a teacher are pre-recorded and the student can watch the lessons as many times as they need to. Testing material is part of the package as well as the marking scheme

whilst online tests are usually automatically graded.

The third but not final difference is that the students learn individually, at their own pace,



and not in a group. Parents also get to choose the tutor and how much they can afford to pay them. Other group activities that the student attends are usually outside the home environment for socialization and co-curricular activities. ●





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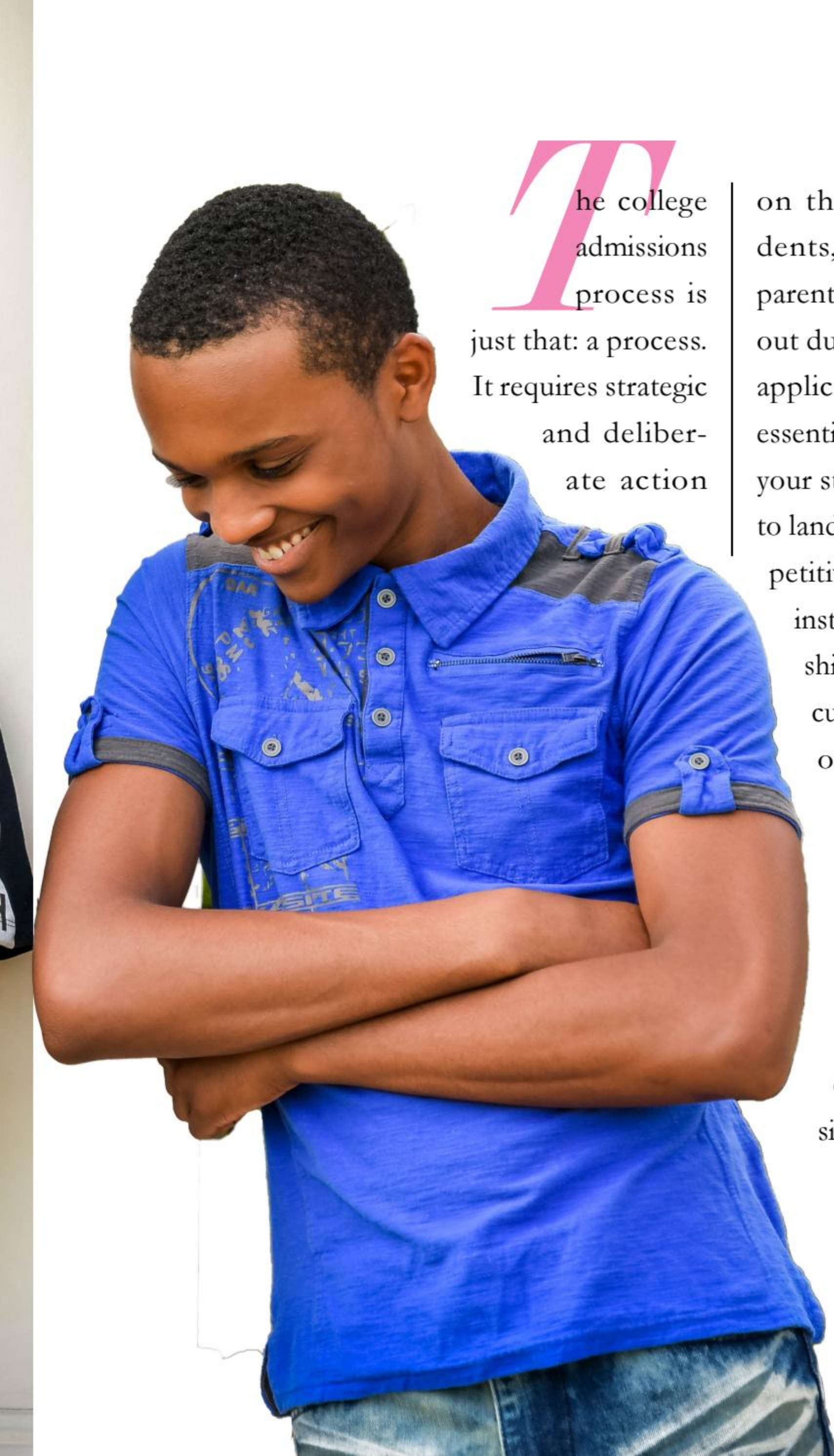
THE BENEFITS OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

By Paddy Mwangi

“Can I get a full scholarship?”

“I want to go to Harvard.”

These are some of the most common questions I get asked as the Regional Representative for the ACT Exam (www.act.org), the leading high-stakes National Examination in the USA and Canada.



The college admissions process is just that: a process. It requires strategic and deliberate action

on the part of students, teachers, and parents alike. Standing out during the college application process is essential, particularly if your student is hoping to land a seat at a competitive school or win institutional scholarships. Having extracurricular activities on their college application can make a big difference, especially if they select options that will catch the eye of discerning admissions departments.

If your student is trying to decide which extracurricular activities to pursue, here's what you need to know.

WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN STUDENTS?

When colleges are deciding whether to admit a prospective student, their core goal is to select students who are likely to succeed and, at times, in the specific program. This means they are going to examine every aspect of what your student has accomplished and what they have to offer.

While every college weights factors differently, most focus on the following:

- **GPA and Individual Grades**
- **Strength of Course Load**
- **Test Scores (SAT/ACT/IB)**
- **Extracurricular Activities**

Other points, like your student's class rank and admissions essays, may also be considered.

However, not every school examines class rank, and many colleges don't require essays.

How a school weighs the different factors varies dramatically. For example, some colleges may prefer well-rounded students while others focus heavily on prior academic performance.

Certain schools even consider a student's leadership potential, ability to work well with



When colleges are deciding whether to admit a prospective student, their core goal is to select students who are likely to succeed and, at times, in the specific program.



groups, and similar traits. In those cases, extracurricular activities may be incredibly valuable.

WHAT ARE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

To put it simply, extracurricular activities are activities your student participates in outside of the classroom.

Extracurricular activities in school usually include supplemental options, like, athletics or after-school clubs. While these programs are supported by the school and may even be hosted on school property, they aren't part of the core educational experience.

However, there are extracurricular activities that have nothing to do with schools too. Your student likely has more options than they realized, both on and off-campus.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES EXAMPLES

While any extracurricular activity can add value, some tend to impress more than others. If your student isn't sure which are worth pursuing, here are some school-based extracurricular activities ideas they should explore first:

- **Volunteering**
- **Academic Teams (like Mathletes and National Academic Quiz Tournament Teams)**
- **Debate Team**
- **School Plays and Theatrical Productions**
- **Culture or Language Clubs**
- **Newspapers and Magazine contributions**
- **Entrepreneurial activities**
- **Sports Team**
- **Music/ Dance Groups**
- **Art and Craft creation and delivery**

While all of the options above are great, your student doesn't have to limit themselves to school-based activities to enhance their college applications. For example, league or tournament sports leagues offered by private clubs can qualify.

Similarly, an internship could be seen as an extracurricular activity and is almost guaranteed to impress. Volunteer work or community service is also viewed highly by colleges, so make sure your student keeps that on the table as well.

WHY ARE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IMPORTANT?

As mentioned above, the



Admissions officers review a student's extracurricular activities to learn more about who they are as a person.



importance of extracurricular activities varies from one college to the next. However, having an extracurricular activity (or a few) listed on college applications definitely benefits your student.

Admissions officers review a student's extracurricular activities to learn more about who they are as a person. Usually, they focus on three main points:

- **PASSION**
- **LEADERSHIP**
- **IMPACT**



When a student is passionate about a subject or activity, they aren't participating in it just to bolster their applications. Instead, they are driven to be part of something, and that impresses admissions officers (particularly when the extracurricular lines

up with the student's requested major).

Similarly, leadership experiences show the student is responsible, dedicated, and not afraid to play a significant role. Additionally, admissions officers often assume the student is

organized, has strong time management skills, and other traits that could help them excel in their studies.

Impact can mean one of two things. First, it may represent how the experience changed your student, showcasing how they

grew because they took part. Second, it can show how their efforts positively affected their community. In either case, the admissions officer gets to learn about your student's personality, and that can make a big difference in whether they are accepted.

A fourth potential factor is longevity. If your student has been a part of the same group for several years, admissions officers may view that favorably. After all, it speaks to your student's level of commitment, and that demonstrates passion, dedication, and diligence.

However, your student shouldn't feel like they are stuck with extracurricular activities they don't enjoy. Longevity isn't as critical as the other factors, so your student should consider switching to another option if their current one doesn't light their fire.



If your student is curious about a subject they haven't had a chance to dive into academically, joining a club or finding an internship that can let them examine it more closely is beneficial.



HOW MANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DO YOU NEED?

Many students believe that adding extracurricular activities is a numbers game where quantity matters more than anything else. In reality, that isn't the case.

Your student should know that they don't have to have a laundry list of extracurricular

activities to impress admissions officers. In fact, concentrating on a single one can be enough. This is dependent on how often your student participates and the quality of the experience.

ASIDE BENEFIT TO EXTRACURRICULARS: CAREER FIT

Extracurricular activities can be an excellent way for your student to explore different career options. If your student is curious about a subject they haven't had a chance to dive into academically, joining a club or finding an internship that can let them examine it more closely is beneficial.

Over time, your student may learn a lot about what ignites their passion as well as what doesn't, and that is valuable. If your student can narrow down their interests and develop those that genuinely intrigue them, they may be able to pick a major with greater ease

and even plan a career path.

While exploring different subjects in college isn't a bad idea, it can be expensive if your student keeps switching their major because they don't know what interests them. Essentially, the quicker they can figure it out before heading to college, the better.

Ultimately, extracurricular activities on college applications do matter, and the experiences themselves are incredibly valuable.




If your student is curious about a subject they haven't had a chance to dive into academically, joining a club or finding an internship that can let them examine it more closely is beneficial.



Some extracurricular activities can even help your student land scholarships!

If you want to discover how to find scholarship opportunities that value extracurricular activities, join our free webinar! You'll learn a ton about the search process, applications, essays, and more,

increasing the odds of your student graduating debt-free. Head over to <http://thescholarshipssystem.com/freewebinar> to see when the next training session is available. 

■ ACT Research & Policy

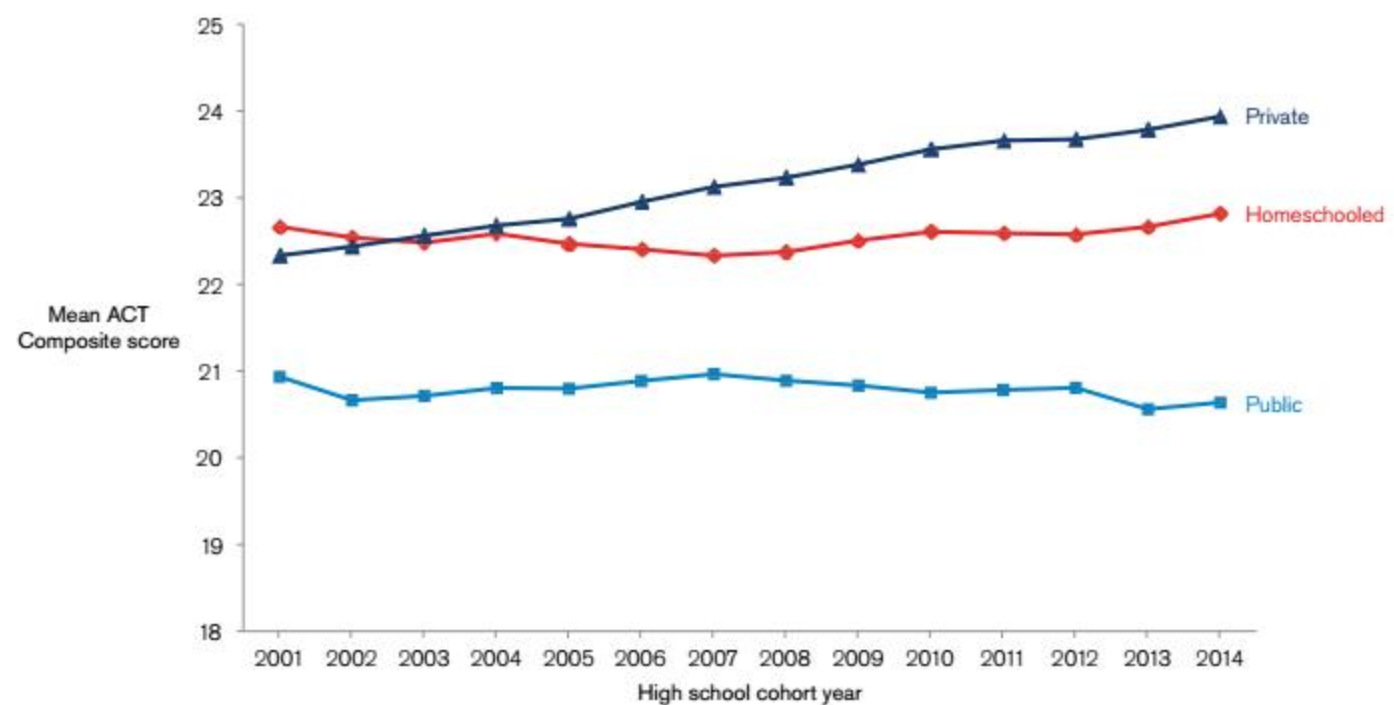
DATA BYTE 2015-2

Jeff Allen is a statistician in the Research division at ACT. He specializes in longitudinal research linking test scores to educational outcomes and student growth models.

Trends in ACT Composite Scores among Homeschooled Students

JEFF ALLEN, PHD

Trends in Mean ACT Composite Scores for Homeschooled, Public School, and Private School Students




Since 2001, mean Composite scores on the ACT® test for homeschooled students have fluctuated between 22.3 in 2007 and 22.8 in 2014. Mean ACT Composite scores for homeschooled students were consistently higher than those for public school students, with the difference ranging between 1.4 score points in 2007 to 2.2 score points in 2014. Compared to students enrolled in private schools, homeschooled students have scored lower since 2003. In 2014, homeschooled students scored 1.1 score points below private school students, on average.

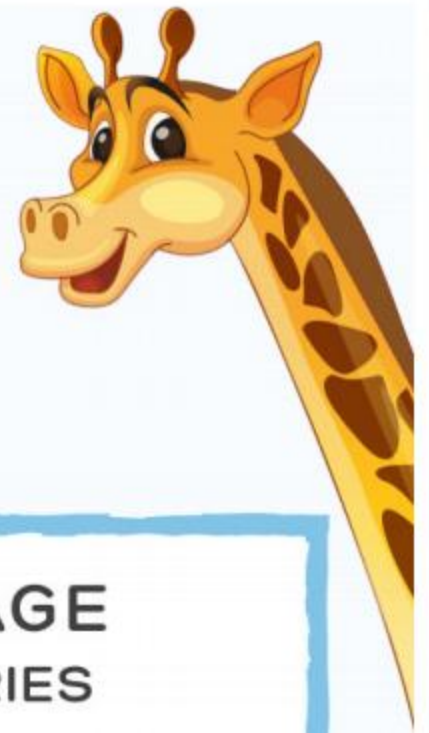
Additional research is needed to better understand score differences between homeschooled and other students. ACT participation rates and sociodemographic characteristics may explain some of the differences in mean ACT scores between homeschooled and other students. ■

DO SOMETHING GREAT



Paddy Mwangi Mpharm (Uni of Bradford UK, MA Marketing Bristol) is an education consultant and Regional Representative of the ACT (www.act.org). He has a background in pharmacy, a career he chose not to pursue as he lacked a passion for it. Keen about purpose-driven education, Paddy is zealous about helping high school students discover what unique value they bring into the world of work and ensure they pursue rewarding careers. 

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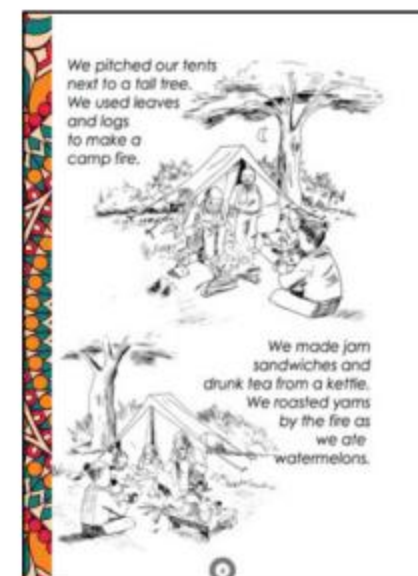
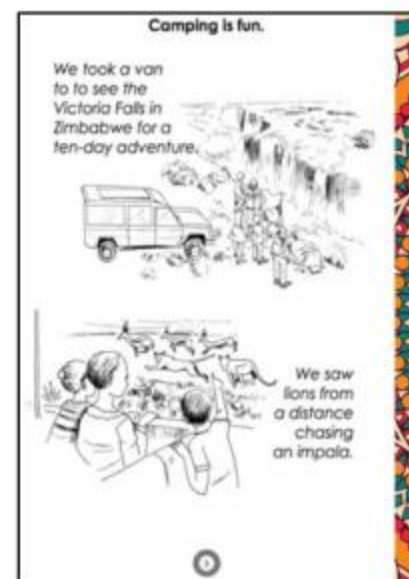


By Grace Waithira Kibe

The Covid-19 pandemic caused interruptions to education that can have long term implications – especially for the most vulnerable. There is a real risk of regression for children whose basic foundational learning was not strong to begin with. The Uwezo Report exposed several accounts of illiteracy and innumeracy struggles in Kenya.

Twiga Books eliminates illiteracy by means of high quality early years education resources, with proven methods tailored to the African child. Mastery and academic success is the ultimate goal.🎯

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- Write numbers 1 - 20



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Other Math PINK Series Titles




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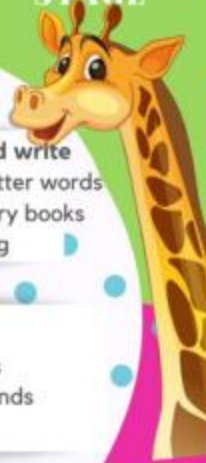
LEARN: How to read and write

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- Introduce short story writing

MATH:

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- Write numbers 1 - 100



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LEARN

- How to apply gained skills for short creative writing

MATH:

LEARN

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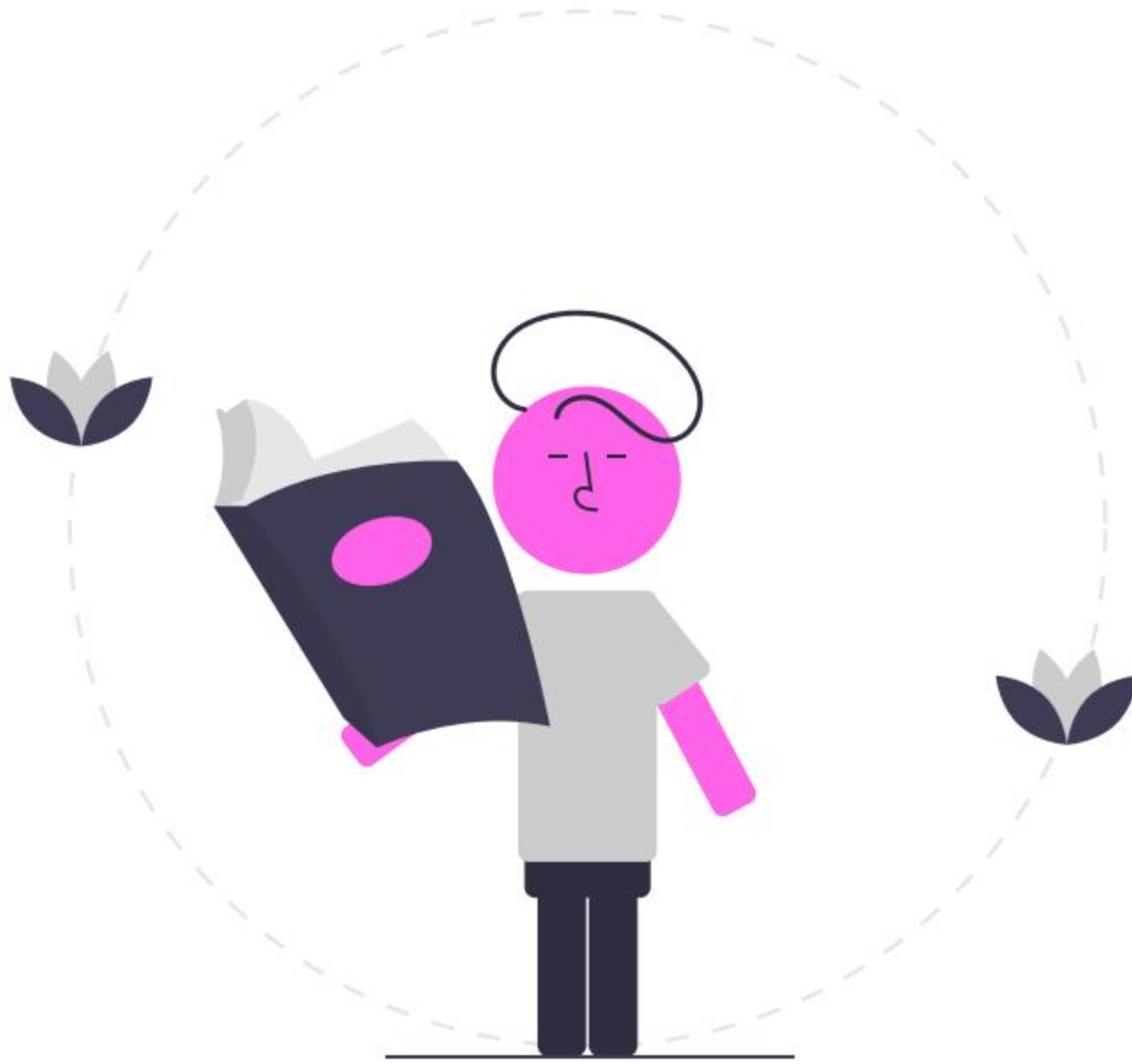


Other Language



Other Math GREEN





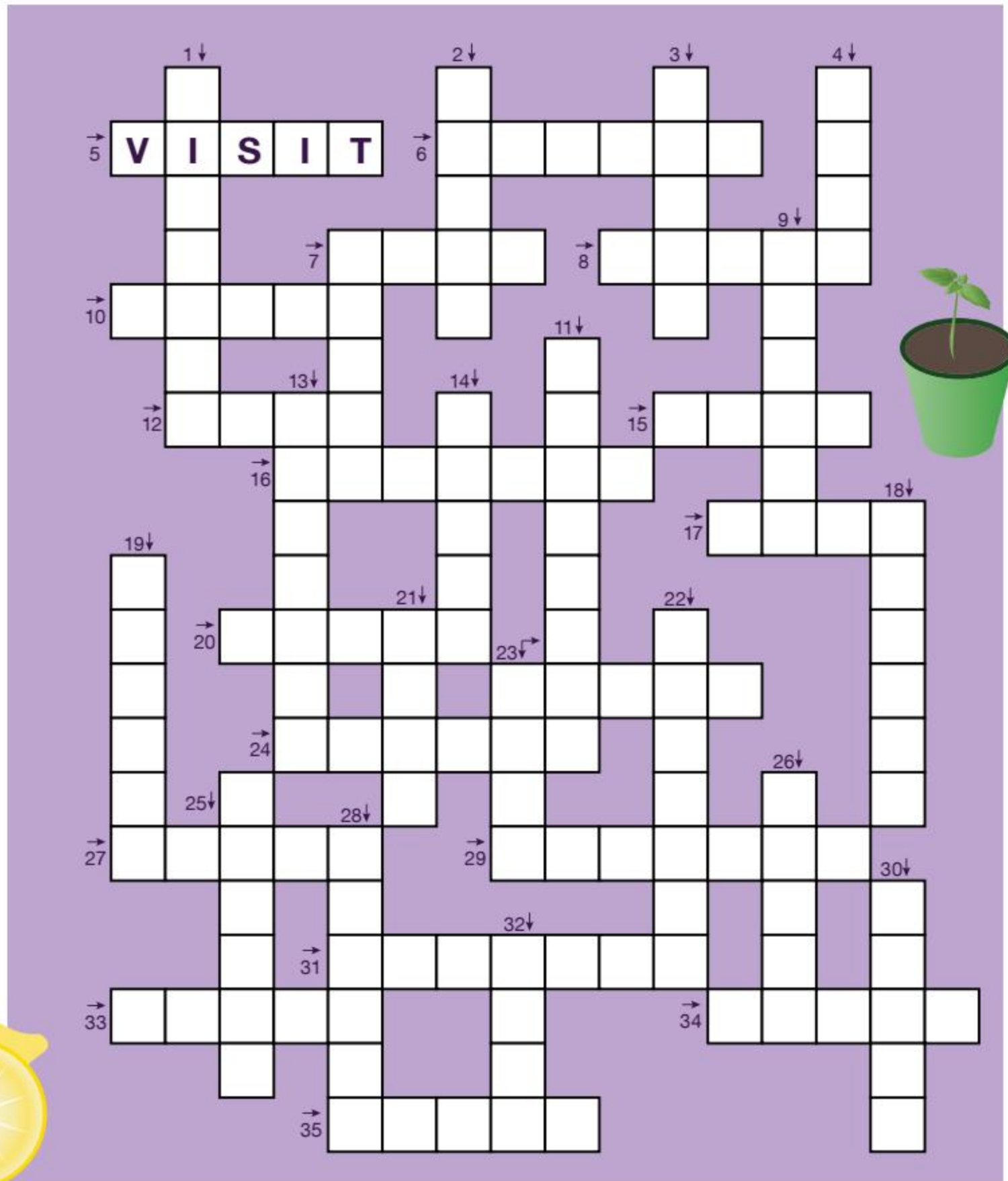
Often hailed as a child expert, Grace Waithira Kibe brings twenty-five years' hands on experience and expertise in Early Childhood Development (E.C.D) to provide unparalleled depth and potency to teaching. Grace has authored 25 workbooks which are systematic in nature to detect then rectify any learning gaps and abolish the cycle of illiteracy. The

Twiga Books Series have proven to be effective supplementary resources for Early Years Education in both rural and urban communities in Kenya.📖

Third Grade Spelling Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 5) to go see someone
- 6) a round shape, like a ring
- 7) having no doubt at all
- 8) mad, upset
- 10) the opposite of loose
- 12) the opposite of hard
- 15) to become more mature or old
- 16) to write again
- 17) to provide aid, to give someone a hand
- 20) a cutting tool, also an eating utensil
- 23) a yellow fruit
- 24) afraid
- 27) to feel, to put your hand on something
- 29) in one side and out the other
- 31) a huge number
- 33) an imaginary vision you have while sleeping
- 34) to have fun or take pleasure from
- 35) prepared



Down

- 1) to send away
- 2) a piece of cloth that warms the neck and shoulders
- 3) all by herself or himself
- 4) a lot
- 7) an area bigger than a city but smaller than a country
- 9) to get rid of, to place somewhere else
- 11) past tense of return
- 13) buddies, pals
- 14) past tense of write



- 18) a group of officials who enforce laws and investigate crimes
- 19) something that is hidden or kept away from others
- 21) concern about what could happen, worry
- 22) a buttery snack that people often eat in movie theatres
- 23) past tense of leave
- 25) a round container for holding something, such as water
- 26) another time, once more
- 28) a hand tool for pounding things, such as nails
- 30) the opposite of correct
- 32) to put things in something, such as a suitcase or a truck

Circle the Number

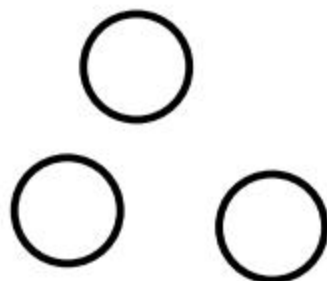
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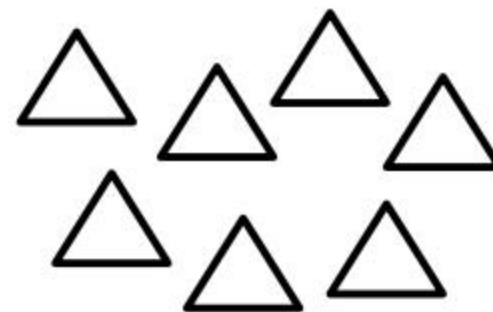
Circle the number that matches the amount of objects.



4 5 7



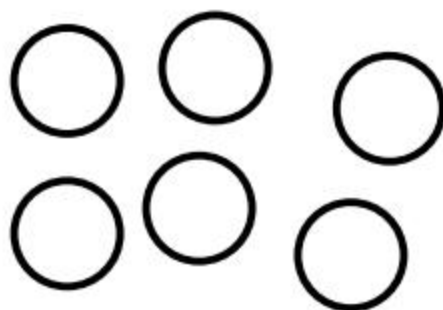
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4 7 9



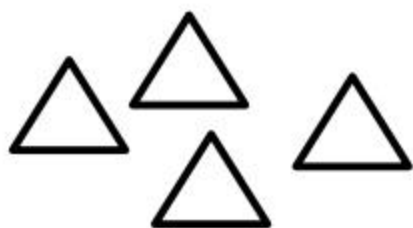
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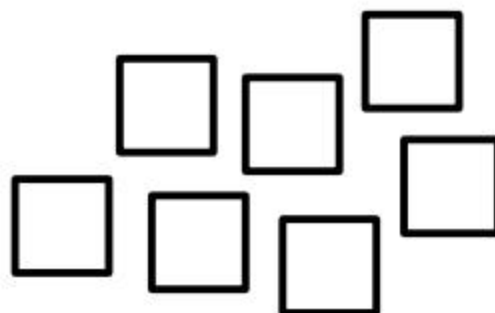
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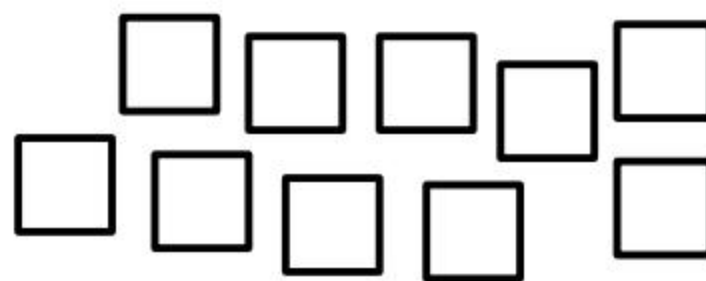


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7 8 9



1 4 10



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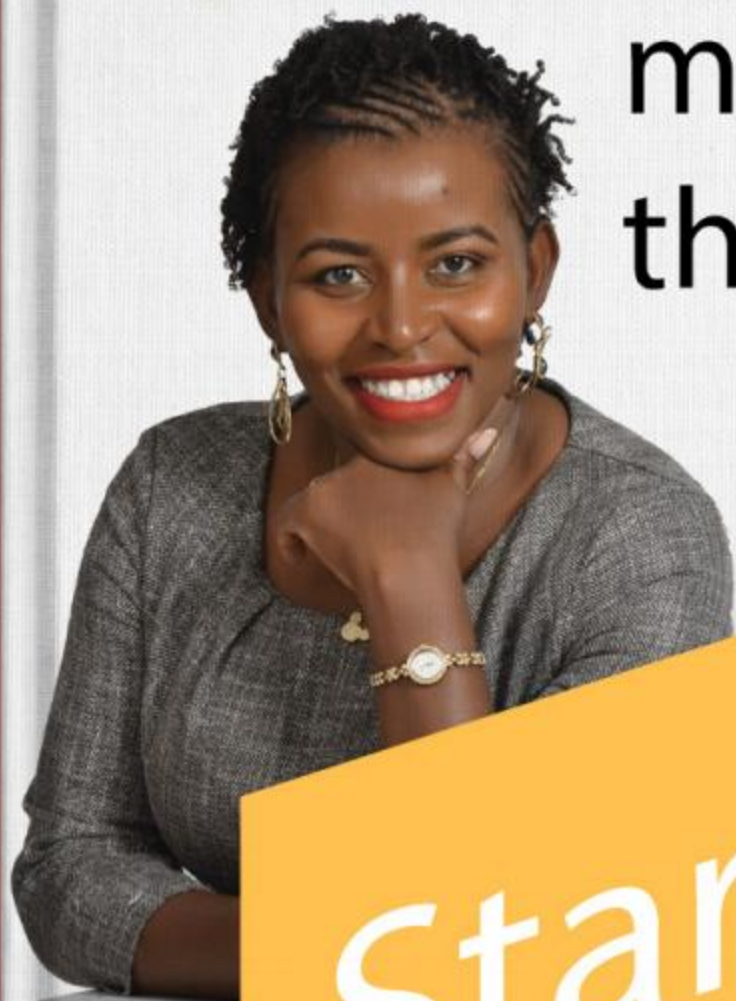
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Day

Reading Challenge

Foreword by Dr. Esther Muchemi,
Group CEO of Samchi Group of Companies.

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Foreword by Dr. Esther Muchemi,
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HOW TO IDENTIFY THE GOD-GIVEN DESTINY OF A CHILD.

By Mary Muriuki

There are many theories about the functions of humanity and the purpose of man. Children living in today's world are constantly being exposed to different theories pushing and pulling their minds in different directions.



Having walked my own journey, I have come to believe and stand on the biblical teachings that we are all created by God to fulfill a unique purpose. It is a profound blessing to raise up children teaching them to follow and pursue their divine destiny.

The scriptures in Romans 8:29-30 and Ephesians 1:5 talk about how God predestined man in accordance with his pleasure and



Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.





will. This means we are born with a particular purpose which comes with gifts and talents ingrained in us. When children are young and especially when left to play and explore, their inborn

gifts and talents manifest and parents can clearly begin to see who their children are, just by observing them. Children also talk a lot about who they want to be when they are young.

However, these natural, inborn abilities can be stifled over time as children go through primary and high school education where they have to conform to what has already been defined



and structured by society. Parents have to deliberately encourage and facilitate their children to continue growing in what comes naturally to them as well as explore their ideas no matter how

unconventional they are.

Sometimes, it is not that obvious, especially for students going into higher education where they are forced to make career choices. If a student has not

had a chance to reflect and explore what is in them through-out their school years, it is usually very difficult to know what exactly they are meant to be. This is the time when the parents and

children can spend time in prayer seeking to know the will of God for their lives.

Matthew 7:7-8

Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. NKJV

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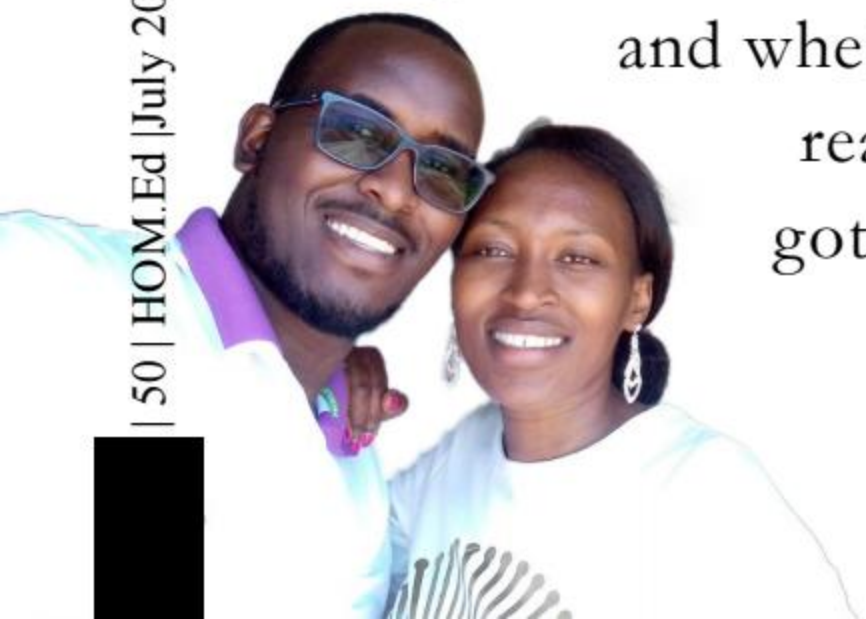


OUR HOMESCHOOLING JOURNEY

By the Banta Family



When we got married my husband, Bernard Banta, told me his views about the traditional education system and why he disliked it. We started exploring other alternatives without knowing what we were looking for. We did not know who to talk to and whether other people shared our views. For those reasons, we did not talk to anyone about it. Life got busy and eventually, the idea slipped into the cracks.



In early 2017, when we became pregnant and we were expecting our first-born daughter, the urge to research for alternatives was sparked again. This time the urge was strong because the clock was ticking. The baby was in the womb and we needed to have a plan before the baby was born.

One day in mid-2017, while we were watching YouTube videos on our TV, we stumbled upon a video of a family in the U.S. that had been homeschooling. The family had a series of videos documenting their journey in homeschooling. The family had younger children who were still schooling and others who had already graduated in their homeschooling education. Through the videos, this family

answered all our questions and it dawned on us that we had found what we had been looking for.

After getting a preview of what we wanted, we started researching looking for homeschooling families

in Kenya. Our online search led us to Mary Muriuki, Director at Elimu Nyumbani. We arranged a meeting with her and it was then that she enlightened us on the subject of homeschooling. She invited us to the E.A.C.H. annual conference in January 2018 where we learned so much about homeschool-

ing from different experienced academics, kids who are being homeschooled, and veteran parents who have homeschooled their kids for a very long time.

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When our firstborn, Heavenly Hadhullu, (meaning a heavenly gift) arrived, we subscribed to Elimu Nyumbani classes to be trained about homeschooling. When Heavenly was 3 months old, we started homeschooling her using the Letter of The Week curriculum.

The Letter of the Week curriculum was created by Katrina

Lybbert as an online resource for parents and educators of young children. She has homeschooled all of her children from birth and created the curriculum from her experience teaching her children at home. Her two oldest children are now in University and have earned many scholarships from their high marks. If you would like to learn more about this curriculum, go

to www.letteroftheweek.com.

It has been a beautiful journey so far. Our daughter's education started with a lot of reading to her from when we were expecting. This has gone on to date. Elimu Nyumbani has really helped us to be all rounded. Our learning is all-inclusive, from the things that surround us. For example, when our baby is taking a shower, we go through the process together, from letting her know she is using water, soap, a basin, towel, to the parts of her body as we clean her and then teach her on how clothes are worn.

There are so many ways in which we have benefitted and are still benefiting from the Elimu Nyumbani training. The following are just a few of the ways we

have benefited so far:

Homeschooling - Elimu Nyumbani helped us understand what homeschooling really is and why we should do it. This is very important because without understanding it, one can homeschool for the wrong reasons or do it in the wrong way. This can end up having a negative impact on your child's growth and education.

Early preparation
- Most education curriculums start from the age of three or four. Through Elimu Nyumbani, we learned how to prepare our kids for homeschooling. With homeschooling, it is never too early to start.

Curriculums - There are so many curriculums on homeschooling,



When you are onboarded, you instantly plug into this community that is all over Kenya.



both international and local. When considering homeschooling, one can easily descend a rabbit hole trying to figure out which curriculum is best for them or whether to go with an eclectic curriculum. Elimu Nyumbani gave us a walk-through on some of the common curriculums, and we got to understand their advantages and disadvantages. They also trained us on what to consider when picking a curriculum.



Community -

Elimu Nyumbani is not just a place where you receive training about homeschooling, it is also a community consisting of so many families that have gone through the training. When you are onboarded, you instantly plug into this community that is all over

Kenya. This community gives you a sense of belonging and comfort knowing that there are people who have been successful and others in the journey who are always there to help and encourage you in case of any challenges.

Ongoing Support - Elimu

Nyumbani is always a phone call or email away. They are always there to support you whenever you need them. Where necessary, they do home visits.

All-inclusive learning -

I've decided to put this as a point on its own because it's one of the major factors that differentiates homeschooling from the traditional education systems. Elimu Nyumbani taught us how to make education all-inclusive. We intentionally make



everything that is exposed to our child a learning opportunity. For instance, we teach our child names of the utensils and their use when we cook. She also learns names, colors, and parts of clothes when we dress her. We also involve her when making decisions e.g. what to wear and when to wear it. When we make education all-inclusive, we save so many hours of sitting down with a pen and paper or marker pen and board educating her. This makes education fun instead of boring.

Our daughter is now two years old and she is able to recognize different colors, memorize songs and poems, speak Swahili and English and pray. She is also able to picture-read some books. Elimu Nyumbani is now part of us and we are certain that this is the route we want to take. We pray that God will bless our lives and live to see our kids become all that we have desired.🙏



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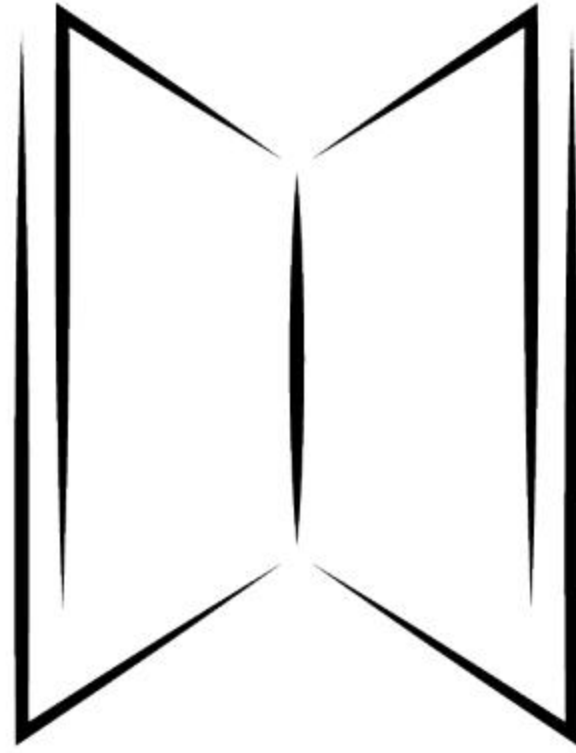
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