

# Children are writing history

## We want to hear the children's voices

"Children are the leaders of tomorrow."  
 "They are part and parcel of the struggle."  
 "They are an integral part of the community

— the struggles of the adults are also the struggles of the children."  
 "Children must feel that they are impor-

tant".  
 These are some of the reasons why it is important for the children's voices to be heard.

In Heideveld and Hanover Park Ann Tomlinson works with groups of children. She encourages them to be creative by organizing activities for the children and encouraging them to express their ideas and experiences. Ann organized a day's activities for the children in her block. See Picture. Ann enjoys working with children because she finds them eager to learn.

Last year the children in Crossroads wrote about "The History of Crossroads." One child wrote "We came to Crossroads in 1975. When we came it was all bushes. Our fathers chopped down the bushes and we built our houses here." Another child wrote: "People came to live at Crossroads because they did not have rights to live in Cape Town." Some of the material which the children wrote was published in the magazine Staffrider, and

other material was published in Molo Songololo.

A lot of children in many areas of the Cape have sent their ideas to Molo Songololo — a new magazine for children in the Cape which aims to communicate children's ideas and experiences.

In Kwa-Zulu a child of 12, Mboma Dladla, told his story which was published in a book titled "The story of Mboma."

### THE VALUE OF CHILDREN'S WRITING

It is very important for children to write about their experiences and to communicate these ideas to others. They develop themselves and start to understand what is happening around them. They learn from an early age that they are important people in the world and must stand up for their rights. Everybody learns from

what the children say.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

Reading is a good way of stimulating children. They are exposed to new ideas and learn about what is happening in the rest of the world. It is important to select books carefully. It is often best to ask the children's librarian what books to choose. A librarian in Hout Bay, Fuad Arnold, recommends the Sunbird series because they are non-racial. Another series of books which are good are the Dr Seuss series.

### SOME IDEAS FOR ENCOURAGING CHILDREN

Encourage children to talk about their experiences and what is important to them. Then ask the children to either write about their experiences or draw a picture.

A teacher in Ocean

View, Beverley Jansen, shows her children pictures, encourages the children to talk about the pictures and then asks the children to write about them.

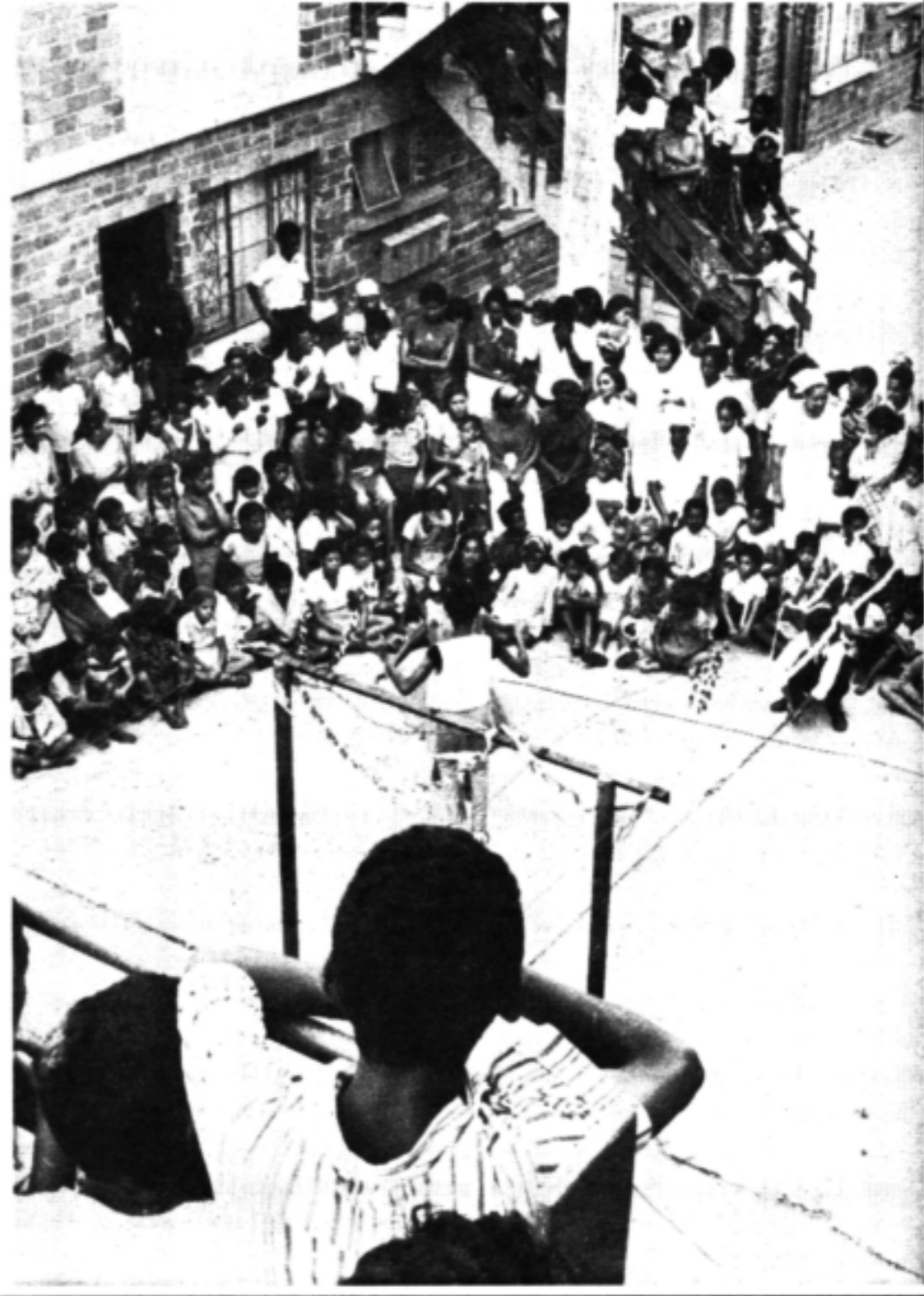
Finally, the most important thing is to give the children plenty of encouragement.

### WE WANT TO HEAR THE CHILDREN'S VOICES!

Teachers! Parents! Encourage your children to write and draw. Children! Write about your ideas and experiences. Draw pictures which tell about your lives.

Molo Songololo would like to publish what the children of the Cape are saying. Please send your writings and drawings to: Molo Songololo, 330 South West House, Shortmarket Street, Cape Town 8001.

\* The book "The story of Mboma" is available at Molo Songololo.



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