

## CHILDREN OF THE DAWN

Reg No: 021-164 NPO

✉ PO Box 292

Banbury

2164

South Africa



☎ 072 428 0939

☎ 011 507 6610 (fax)



[magali@childrenofthedawn.org.za](mailto:magali@childrenofthedawn.org.za)

Website :

[www.childrenofthedawn.org.za](http://www.childrenofthedawn.org.za)

### 2015 MINICHESS REPORT Children of the Dawn Ermelo

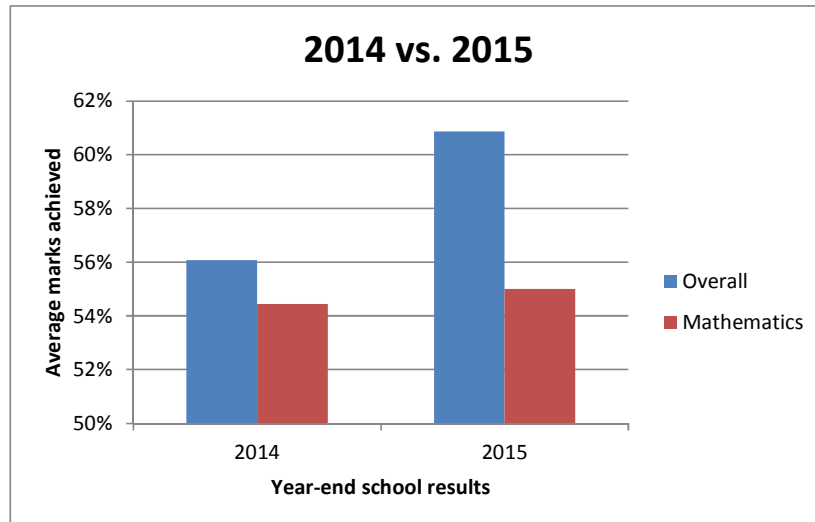
Minichess ([www.minichess.co.za](http://www.minichess.co.za)) is a course developed over the course of 20 years. It focuses on the age groups of pre-school to approximately nine years old. The programme, though, has been recommended by its developer to all children attending school. The Department of Education of South Africa has approved the programme for implementation in primary schools Grade R to 3. However, since the capacity and roll-out are not sufficient enough to reach rural areas, Children of the Dawn started the implementation of the Minichess programme in February 2014 at our Ermelo community and continued successfully in 2015.

Under the supervision of an accredited Minichess Teacher, we have been dispensing the Minichess programme to over 50+ learners from Grade R to 7, for whom we are monitoring their school results. **In 2014**, we had 24 participants from grades R-3 and 33 participants from grades 4-7. **In 2015**, up to 53 learners received weekly Minichess lessons. Not all learners consistently attended every week, because attendance is voluntary. The Grade R-3 group has generally only had 1 year of Minichess training, while most of the Grade 4-7 group of the learners have had 2 years of Minichess training. We managed to gather over 80% of school reports for children attending Minichess in 2015, more than 2014.

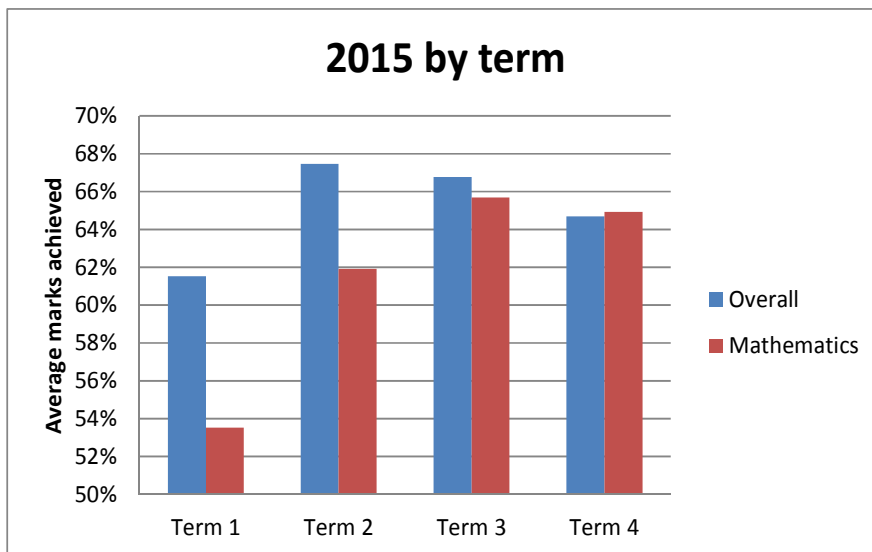
Access to the school reports enabled us to carry out a thorough analysis of learners' results (results in Overall Average and Mathematics have been observed) over the past 2 years and these results are communicated below.

#### **Grades R-3 school results analysis (only 1 year of Minichess training)**

Of the 11 learners (for whom we have both 2014 and 2015 results) participating in the **MiniChess programme and attending grades R-3** have achieved an average of **61% in the Overall average evaluation and 55% in Mathematics in 2015**. Compared to 2014 the Overall average and Mathematics average was 56% and 54% respectively. See graph 1 below. We were also able to track the result of 13 learners over 4 terms in 2015. The results of the learners have improved steadily in term 2 and in term 3 in mathematics, but results stabilized in term 4. See graph 2 below.



*Graph 1: Comparison of 2015 versus 2014 results in Grades R-3 with a focus on Overall average and Mathematics results. Based on results of 11 learners.*



*Graph 2: Comparison of 2015 results in Grades R-3 with a focus on each particular term. Based on results of 13 learners.*

We have also analysed the increase in the level of the marks of the learners (see table below). 8 out of 11 (73%) of the learners' marks improved Overall and 6 out of 11 (55%) of learners' Mathematics marks improved. The marks of 46% (18%+27%) of the learners increased by 10% or more in both the Overall marks and Mathematics marks. There were 3 learners of whom the Mathematics marks increased by more than 20%. One learner that failed grade 1 in 2014 with an average of 14% for Mathematics, scored 69% for Mathematics in 2015.



Mark increase	Overall	%	Mathematics	%
20%+	2	18%	3	27%
10%-20%	3	27%	2	18%
0%-10%	3	27%	1	9%
Subtotal > 0%	8	73%	6	55%
Total no of learners	11	100%	11	100%

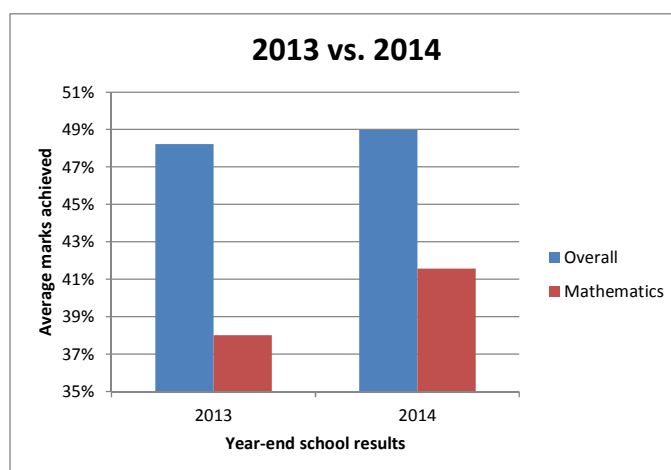
Thus we are of the opinion that the MiniChess programme **is contributing to positive school results** among tracked learners in grades R-3.

#### **Grades 4-7 school results analysis (mostly 2 years of Minichess training)**

Many of the Grade 4-7 group has been participating in the Minichess programme for 2 years. We reviewed the school results of 2014 compared to 2013 and the school results of 2015 to 2014.

#### **2014 school results vs 2013 school results**

The 14 learners (for whom we have both 2013 and 2014 results) participating in the **MiniChess programme attending grades 4-7** have achieved an average of **49% in Overall average evaluation and 42% in Mathematics in 2014**. This compares to 2013 results, where the Overall average was 48% and 38% respectively. See Graph 3 below.



*Graph 3: Comparison of 2014 versus 2013 results in Grades 4-7 with a focus on Overall average and Mathematics results. Based on results of 14 learners.*

We have analysed the increase in the level of the marks of the learners (see table below). 8 out of 14 (57%) of the learners' marks improved Overall and 12 out of 14 (86%) of learners' Mathematics marks improved. 46% (5) of the learners' marks increased by 10% or more, Overall and in



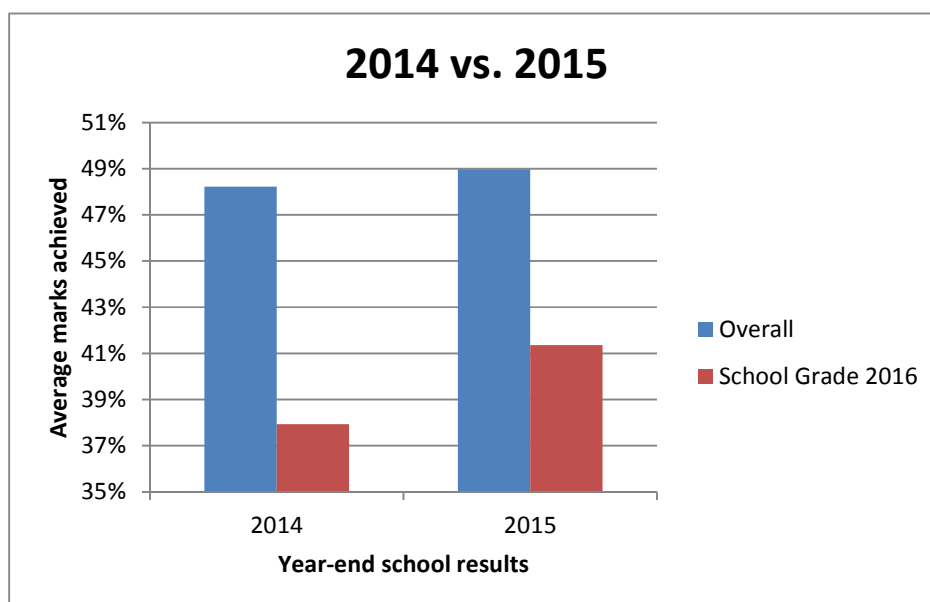
Mathematics. There was 1 learner of whom the Overall average and the Mathematics marks increased by more than 20%.

Mark increase	Overall	%	Mathematics	%
20%+	1	7%	1	7%
10%-20%	4	29%	7	50%
0%-10%	3	21%	4	29%
Subtotal > 0%	8	57%	12	86%
Total no of learners	14	100%	14	100%

We can announce that the MiniChess programme **contributed to positive results** among tracked students in grades 4-7.

#### 2015 school results vs 2014 school results

In 2015, we gathered school reports from 29 learners compared to 2014, when we were able to track 19 learners only. This provided us with comparative information for 2015 and 2014 for 25 learners. The 25 learners (for whom we have both 2014 and 2015 results) participating in the **MiniChess programme and attending grades 4-7** have achieved an average of **49% in Overall average evaluation and 41% in Mathematics in 2015**. This compares to 2014 results, where the Overall average was 48% and 38% respectively. See Graph 4 below.



*Graph 4: Comparison of 2015 versus 2014 results in Grades 4-7 with a focus on Overall average and Mathematics results. Based on results of 25 learners.*

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We have analysed the increase in the level of the marks of the learners (see table below). 10 out of 25 (40%) of the learners' marks improved Overall and 5 out of 25 (20%) of learners' Mathematics marks improved. The improvement is smaller compared to the increase noted in the Grade 0-3 group and the results of the Grade 4-7 group for 2014 vs. 2013.

Mark increase	Overall	%	Mathematics	%
20%+	1	4%	-	0%
10%-20%	4	16%	2	8%
0%-10%	5	20%	3	12%
Subtotal > 0%	10	40%	5	20%
Total no of learners	25	100%	25	100%

Most of the learners in the group of 25 have been receiving more than 1 year of Minichess training. It seems that larger improvement is experienced and more learners' school results are impacted in year 1 (see the results of the Grade 0-3 group and the results of the Grade 4-7 group for 2014 vs. 2013 as analysed in the tables).

### Conclusion

It can be concluded that over 50 learners participating in the MiniChess educational programme from Grades R-3 and 4-7 progressed in both Overall average evaluation and Mathematics with tangible results and improvements in both areas in 2015 versus 2014.

The data also seems to indicate a number of learners' school results improved substantially (i.e. marks increased by 10% or more).

In addition to the improvement in the school results, valuable life skills are being provided in the latter years of Minichess, e.g. planning, control of emotions and strategizing skills. These are skills that the learners would not necessarily learn in the normal school environment and cannot be captured in the school results.

Further anecdotal evidence in support of the Minichess programme is that a local primary school teacher is asking the Children of the Dawn co-ordinator, Petrus Zulu, if he can accommodate other learners who are struggling at their school in the Minichess programme.