



LIKHAPHA'S JOURNEY

From uncertainty to ECD success

1

2023 - SETBACK

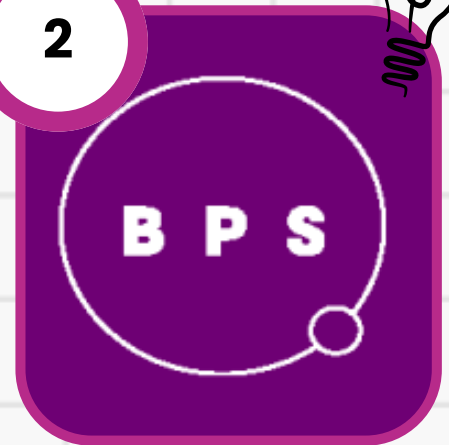


After moving from Potchefstroom to Orange Farm to revive her kota business, Likhapha struggled to make it profitable and eventually closed it. She was also dealing with the emotional impact of losing her father.

2023 - DISCOVERY

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In 2023 she discovered the BPS. Through her coach she received a referral for counselling support to process her grief and begin planning for her future. While working at her family-owned ECD centre, she discovered a passion for working with children.



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2024 - TAKING ACTION



With guidance from her BPS coach, she enrolled for a Level 4 in ECD certificate and passed. She also started an ECD by providing informal caregiving for children in the community.

2025 - PIVOT

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As she worked to formalise her ECD centre, she faced several challenges, including unsuccessful attempts to secure infrastructure support, outstanding fees that prevented her from accessing her certificate, and being scammed while trying to register as her ECD as an NPO. Her BPS coach helped her to work through these disappointments and make plans to pay her fees and receive her certificate. Her coach also referred her to the ECD Forum, where she connected with Smart Start for training and support.



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2025 - OPPORTUNITY



She participated in IMBE's ECD Capacity Training, which equips ECD business owners with the knowledge and tools to build financially viable and resilient businesses. Additionally, she completed training in Basic Fire Prevention and Basic First Aid to enhance her skills as an ECD practitioner.

2026 - BREAKTHROUGH

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With support from BPS, she successfully registered her ECD centre with the Department of Basic Education and improved the facility by creating a dedicated play area for learners.



WHERE SHE IS NOW

Her ECD centre is registered and fully operational. "I feel so special because not just anyone can be left with people's children," she says. The BPS team continues to support her growth, including assisting with facility improvements such as repainting through Mandela Day initiatives.