



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Pre-school learners first to be taught about vital handwashing

18 October 2019

Pre-School learners in Muldersdrift, Plot 4, became the first recipients of the Gauteng Provincial Office's efforts at educating the public about handwashing when they were taught the necessary steps of washing hands on Tuesday, 15 October 2019.

Other participants in the campaign included the Gauteng Department of Health and Dettol.

The United Nations set aside 15 October, annually, as Global Handwashing Day to raise awareness about the importance of washing hands with running water and soap. The Department has taken advantage of this and initiated its campaign and lobbied its stakeholders to promote proper handwashing amongst communities across the country.

The learners, who were accompanied by their teachers, had an exciting day as they learnt about how to wash their hands properly. The children came from two pre-schools – the Sechaba and Sindisiwe pre-schools.

First off, the learners were taught about the six steps of washing hands which they had to follow for hands to be properly and thoroughly washed.

Demonstrating to the inquisitive learners, DWS's Bridget Maleka told the learners important is water to people's lives and how to use it sparingly to wash hands.

Ms Maleka emphasised that despite the fact that it is vital to wash hands regularly, learners should take care not to use water excessively because the country is facing water shortage. In response, the learners seemed to embrace the messages as they sang songs that were related to handwashing and conserving water.

"It is important that we target pre-schools so that children internalise the importance of washing hands properly at an early age. This is an opportunity that we cannot miss. Should we miss this time, the likelihood is that these children will go on to live unhealthy lives," Ms Maleka said, adding that is furthermore important because they will go on to talk to others where they live about washing hands.

Teachers for the participating pre-schools echoed each other's sentiments in thanking the Department for the rare opportunity afforded to the learners to learn about the importance of washing hands.

Hosia Sithole