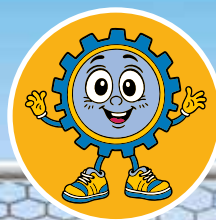




PLAY TOGETHER

Global Football Festival Toolkit

Empowering Movement, Teamwork and Joy Through Play



GAUTENG PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Good
moves**

Active Schools, South Africa

Designed for Early Childhood Development (ECD), Foundation Phase (Grades R-3), and Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6).
This activity guide easily adapts to meet the unique needs of early childhood development, ensuring engaging and age-appropriate learning.

The Department of Basic Education has made a conscious effort to ensure that Physical Education is an essential part of the overall learning experience for learners.

Through the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), learners have access to Physical Education, as dedicated teaching time has been allocated within the timetable under the subject area of Life Skills or Life Orientation.



WELLNESS2LIFE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

***Making wellness visible, joyful
and inclusive in every school.***

Wellness2Life is built on a simple promise: every learner matters, every movement counts, and every creative act is celebrated. Inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that learners of all abilities, backgrounds, and identities can participate fully and joyfully.

What this guide offers

This toolkit provides educators with simple guidance to organise a Play Together Global Football Festival at their school.

The activities are designed to be flexible and easy to implement within the Life Skills and Physical Education programme. Schools may adapt the activities to suit their available space, equipment, and number of learners.

The festival is designed to:

- **Build** movement skills
- **Encourage** teamwork
- **Promote** creativity
- **Celebrate** participation

Our shared vision

- Schools become places where wellness is visible in daily routines.
- Educators feel empowered to adapt and include every learner.
- Learners grow in confidence, kindness, and resilience.
- Communities celebrate diversity and unity through play, creativity, and shared experiences.

***Together, we are building schools
where everyone participates,
everyone gets active, everyone
gets creative, and everyone has
fun.***

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PLAYTOGETHER

GLOBAL FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

SECTION 1

What is the Global Football Festival?

The Play Together Global Football Festival is a joyful school celebration that brings learners together through movement, creativity, teamwork, and play.

Inspired by the excitement of international football tournaments, the festival encourages every learner to participate in fun football activities while representing countries from around the world.

The programme combines physical activity, creativity, and cultural exploration, helping schools create inclusive environments where every learner feels confident, connected, and active.



Why this programme matters

Introduction

Sport and physical activity play an important role in the development of children. Through movement and teamwork, learners develop confidence, social skills, cooperation, and healthy habits.

The Play Together Global Football Festival supports schools by:

- Encouraging **mass participation** in physical activity.
- Promoting **teamwork** and fair play.
- Building social connection and school spirit.
- Introducing learners to **structured sport** in a fun and inclusive way.
- **Empowering** educators to organise simple and enjoyable sport activities.

The festival focuses on **participation first**, ensuring that every learner has an opportunity to take part.



What makes the Festival special

The festival is built around three key Wellness2Life pillars:

- **MoveTogether**
 - Learners develop movement skills through fun football activities and games.
- **CreateTogether**
 - Teams design flags, banners, and chants representing their chosen countries.
- **CelebrateTogether**
 - Schools host a joyful festival day where teams participate in activities, mini matches, and a Parade of Nations.

Everyone belongs

The Play Together Global Football Festival is designed to be inclusive.

Educators are encouraged to ensure that:

- Boys and girls participate together
- Learners with disabilities are included
- Teams support and encourage each other
- Participation is valued more than winning

The goal is simple:

**Everyone plays.
Everyone belongs.
Everyone celebrates.**

How the Play Together Global Football Festival Works

The Play Together Global Football Festival is a school celebration that combines physical activity, creativity, teamwork, and cultural learning.

The festival is designed to help learners develop football skills, work together as teams, and celebrate participation through sport. Educators guide learners through a simple process that prepares them for the festival event.

The journey includes three key stages

Move Together

- Learners practise football skills such as dribbling, passing, and kicking during their Physical Education or Life Skills lessons. These activities help learners develop the confidence and coordination needed to participate in football matches.

Create Together

- Learners work in teams to represent different countries from around the world. Each team creates its own identity by designing a flag, preparing simple team posters, and learning about the country they represent.

Celebrate Together

- The preparation activities lead to the Global Football Festival, where teams participate in an Opening Ceremony, a Parade of Nations, and friendly mini football matches against other teams.

The focus of the festival is participation, teamwork, and enjoyment. Every learner should feel encouraged to take part, support their teammates, and celebrate the joy of playing together.

The Festival Journey

Educators guide learners through a series of simple steps that lead to the festival day.

Introduce the Festival

Explain to learners that they will participate in a Global Football Festival where teams represent different countries and play friendly football matches.

1

Form Teams

Divide learners into balanced teams that include both boys and girls. Ensure that learners of different abilities, including learners with disabilities, are included and supported.

2

Choose a Country

Each team selects a country to represent during the festival. Teams should not choose the same country within the same class.

3

Practise Football Skills

During the MoveTogether activities, learners practise football skills that will help them play confidently in their mini matches.

4

Create Team Identity

During the CreateTogether activities, teams design their country flags, posters, and chants that will be showcased during the festival.

5

Celebrate the Festival

On the festival day, learners participate in the Opening Ceremony, Parade of Nations, and mini football matches.

6

How the Play Together

Global Football Festival Works continued

Key Principles of the Festival

To ensure that the festival is positive and meaningful for all learners, educators should emphasise the following principles:

- **Participation**
 - Every learner should have the opportunity to play and take part in the activities.
- **Teamwork**
 - Learners should support and encourage one another, working together as a team.
- **Respect**
 - Learners should show respect to teammates, opponents, and educators.
- **Enjoyment**
 - The festival is designed to celebrate movement, creativity, and the joy of playing together.



Educator Tip

Keep the focus on participation and learning, rather than competition. Encourage learners to try their best, support their teammates, and enjoy the experience of representing their team.

FORMING TEAMS AND CHOOSING COUNTRIES

SECTION 2

The Play Together Global Football Festival is designed to encourage teamwork, cooperation, and inclusive participation. Before learners begin practising football skills or preparing for the festival celebration, educators first guide them through the process of forming teams and selecting the countries they will represent.

This stage of the programme is important because it establishes the team structures that learners will work within throughout the festival journey. By working in consistent teams, learners have the opportunity to build trust, develop communication skills, and support one another as they prepare for the festival activities.

Football is a team sport that requires collaboration and shared responsibility. When learners feel connected to their team and understand their role within it, they are more likely to participate confidently and support the success of others.

For this reason, educators should take time to organise teams carefully and ensure that every learner feels included and valued.

Forming Balanced and Inclusive Teams

Educators begin by dividing learners into teams that will participate together in the preparation activities and festival matches.

When forming teams, it is important to ensure that they are balanced, inclusive, and supportive learning environments. Teams should reflect the diversity of the classroom and provide opportunities for all learners to contribute meaningfully.

Educators are encouraged to consider the following principles when organising teams:

- **Balanced participation**
 - Teams should include a mixture of boys and girls to encourage cooperative play and mutual respect.
- **Inclusion of learners with disabilities**
 - Learners with disabilities should be included in teams and supported so that they can participate in ways that match their abilities and strengths.
- **Variety of skill levels**
 - Teams should include learners with different levels of football experience. Mixing skill levels helps learners learn from one another and prevents teams from becoming overly competitive.
- **Positive team dynamics**
 - Where possible, educators should create teams that allow learners to work well together and support one another.
- Once teams have been established, it is helpful for teams to remain consistent throughout the preparation activities and the festival itself. This continuity allows learners to build relationships and develop a stronger sense of team identity.

Representing Countries from Around the World

After teams have been formed, each team selects a country to represent during the Play Together Global Football Festival.

The purpose of representing countries is to introduce learners to the global nature of football and to encourage curiosity about different cultures and traditions. Football is played in almost every country in the world, and international tournaments bring together nations from many different backgrounds.

By representing countries, learners can begin to understand that sport is not only about competition, but also about connection, cultural exchange, and shared celebration.

Educators may guide learners in selecting countries in several ways. Teams may draw country names randomly, choose from a list of countries, or vote for a country they would like to represent.

To maintain fairness and diversity, educators should ensure that:

- Each country is represented by only one team within the class
- Teams represent a variety of different regions of the world
- South Africa is represented by one of the teams

This approach allows the classroom to reflect the diversity of international football while maintaining a sense of national pride.

Learning about the Country

Once teams have chosen their countries, learners can begin exploring basic information about the country they represent.

This activity connects sport with geography, culture, and global awareness, helping learners understand that football is part of a much wider world.

Educators may guide learners to discover simple facts about their country, such as:

- The colours and design of the national flag
- The capital city
- Languages spoken in the country
- Famous football players
- Traditional foods or cultural celebrations

Learners can share these discoveries with their classmates and use them to inspire their team identity.

This learning process encourages curiosity and helps learners develop an appreciation for cultures beyond their own.

Representing countries around the world continued

Building Team Identity

After selecting their country, teams begin the process of creating their team identity. This stage is closely connected to the CreateTogether pillar of the Wellness2Life programme.

Developing a team identity helps learners feel proud of the group they belong to and encourages collaboration. It also gives learners an opportunity to express their creativity and imagination.

Teams may work together to:

- **Create a flag** representing their country
- **Design posters or banners** for their team
- **Develop a team chant or cheer**
- **Choose colours or symbols** associated with their country

These creative elements will later be used during the Parade of Nations on the festival day.

By combining sport with creative expression, learners experience the festival as both a physical and cultural celebration.



Educator Tip

Educators are encouraged to guide learners through this process thoughtfully, ensuring that every learner feels included and excited to represent their team.

Educator Reflection

Forming teams and selecting countries is more than just an organisational step. It is an opportunity to help learners develop social and emotional skills such as cooperation, communication, and respect for others.

A strong sense of team identity will make the preparation activities more meaningful and will help create a joyful and supportive atmosphere during the festival celebration.

Representing countries around the world continued

Countries teams can represent

Teams represent countries from around the world that participate in international football competitions. Each team should choose one country, and the same country should not be selected more than once within the same class.

South Africa should always be represented by one team.

Africa	Europe	Asia	North & Central America	South America	Oceania
					
South Africa	England	Japan	United States	Argentina	New Zealand
					
Morocco	France	Uzbekistan	Mexico	Brazil	
					
Ghana	Germany	South Korea	Canada	Uruguay	
					
Nigeria	Spain	Saudi Arabia	Costa Rica	Colombia	
					
Senegal	Portugal	Qatar	Panama	Chile	
					
Egypt	Netherlands	Australia	Jamaica	Ecuador	

Educator Tip

Encourage teams to choose countries from different parts of the world. This helps learners explore global cultures and creates a diverse and exciting festival environment.

MOVE TOGETHER PRACTISING SKILLS

SECTION 3

Before participating in the Play Together Global Football Festival, learners should practise a variety of movement and ball-handling activities during their regular MoveTogether sessions.

These activities are already included in the Wellness2Life Term 2 Activity Guides, which have been designed specifically for:

- Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3)
- Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6)

Educators should select activities from the guide appropriate for the developmental stage of the learners.

These sessions will help learners build confidence, coordination, teamwork and movement skills that prepare them for participation in the festival mini matches.



MoveTogether Activities by Phase

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

ECD learners focus on basic movement and ball familiarisation. The aim is to develop confidence in movement while introducing simple ball-handling skills.

Examples of activities include:

- Rolling and stopping a ball
- Walking or running while guiding a ball
- Passing a ball to a partner
- Simple movement games using cones or markers
- Basic coordination and balance activities

The emphasis at this stage is on fun, participation and exploration of movement.

Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3)

Foundation Phase learners begin developing basic sport skills and teamwork through structured activities.

Examples of activities include:

- Piggy in the Middle
- On-the-Go Passing Play
- Zig Zag and Catch
- Shoulder Pass
- Bounce Pass
- Loopy Pass

Move Together - Practising skills continued

These activities help learners practise:

- Passing
- Catching
- Coordination
- Agility
- Teamwork

Intermediate Phase (Grades 4–6)

Intermediate Phase learners begin applying their movement skills in more structured sport activities and modified games.

Examples of activities include:

- 100m / 200m Sprint
- 12 Minute Run
- Ten Passes Possession Game
- Agility Test
- Agility L Test
- Running the Defence

These activities focus on:

- Speed and agility
- Decision-making
- Teamwork and strategy
- Physical fitness

Educator Tip

MoveTogether activities should be integrated into regular Physical Education lessons during Term 2.

Through consistent practice, learners will:

develop confidence in movement

improve coordination and teamwork

build the skills needed to participate in the Play Together Festival mini matches.

The focus is not on competition, but rather on participation, skill development and enjoyment of movement.

CREATE TOGETHER BUILDING TEAM IDENTITY

SECTION 4

This section prepares learners for the Parade of Nations and Festival Day, while remaining aligned with the CreateTogether campaign approach used in the Wellness2Life activity guides.

The creative campaign becomes a “Team Identity Campaign.”

This ensures:

- Alignment with W2L structure
- Creative learning
- Preparation for the festival.



Building your team identities

During the CreateTogether phase, learners begin preparing their team identity for the Play Together Global Football Festival.

Working in their teams, learners explore the country they represent and use creativity to design materials that express pride, teamwork, and respect for diversity.

These creative activities give learners the opportunity to express themselves through art, communication and teamwork, while reinforcing the Wellness2Life themes of confidence, unity and positive participation.

The creative preparation will be used during the Festival Opening Ceremony and Parade of Nations, where each team proudly represents their country.

Educators should guide learners through age-appropriate creative activities that encourage participation from all learners, including learners with disabilities, ensuring that every child contributes to the team identity.

Creative preparation activities

Teams prepare the following items to represent their country:

- A country flag
- A team poster or banner
- A team chant or cheer
- One interesting fact about the country

These creative items will be presented during the Festival Parade of Nations. Educators should encourage collaboration, creativity and respect for the cultures represented by the teams.

Create Together - Building team identity continued

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Phase Adaptation

This is where we bring in the three learning phases, as you correctly requested.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Creative activities should focus on simple visual expression and fun participation.

Suggested activities:

- Colouring in the country flag
- Decorating a team banner using crayons or paint
- Learning a simple team cheer
- Practising walking together in the Parade of Nations

The focus for ECD learners is participation, colour recognition and teamwork.

Foundation Phase (Grades 1–3)

Learners begin to connect creativity with basic knowledge about the country they represent.

Suggested activities:

- Drawing or colouring the team flag
- Creating a team poster with pictures and words
- Writing a short team chant
- Learning one interesting fact about the country

For example:

- “Brazil is famous for football.”
- “South Africa hosted the 2010 World Cup.”

Intermediate Phase (Grades 4–6)

Learners can demonstrate deeper understanding and teamwork.

Suggested activities:

- Designing a team banner with country information
- Researching two or three facts about the country
- Creating a team chant or motivational message

This helps learners develop:

- Research skills
- Communication skills
- Cultural awareness

Linking Back to Wellness2Life

Educators should reinforce the Wellness2Life themes during creative preparation.

For example:

- Build Your Team
 - Learners work together to prepare their team identity.
- Use Your Voice
 - Learners present their chant and country information.
- Come to Play
 - Learners prepare themselves to represent their team proudly during the festival.

Output of CreateTogether

By the end of the CreateTogether preparation phase, each team should have their creative projects, which will be used during the Festival Opening Ceremony and Parade of Nations.

CELEBRATE TOGETHER

PLAY TOGETHER GLOBAL FOOTBALL FESTIVAL DAY

SECTION 5

CelebrateTogether is the moment where the preparation, practice, and creativity of learners come together in a joyful school celebration.

After developing football skills during the MoveTogether activities and creating team identities during the CreateTogether activities, learners participate in the Play Together Global Football Festival.

This event provides an opportunity for learners to experience the excitement of representing their chosen country while participating in fun football activities and friendly matches.

The festival is designed as a mass participation event, ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to take part. The emphasis is not on winning or competition, but on participation, teamwork, and enjoyment.

During the festival, learners proudly represent the countries they selected earlier in the programme. Teams showcase the flags, banners, and chants they created, while also demonstrating the football skills they practised during the MoveTogether sessions.

The event celebrates:

- Movement and physical activity
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Creativity and cultural awareness
- Confidence and participation

Through this shared celebration, learners experience the joy of playing together while building a sense of belonging within their school community.

Educators are encouraged to create a festive atmosphere by encouraging team spirit, celebrating creativity, and ensuring that all learners feel included and supported throughout the event.

The CelebrateTogether stage allows learners to see the results of their preparation while reinforcing the key message of the programme:

Everyone participates.

Everyone moves.

Everyone belongs.

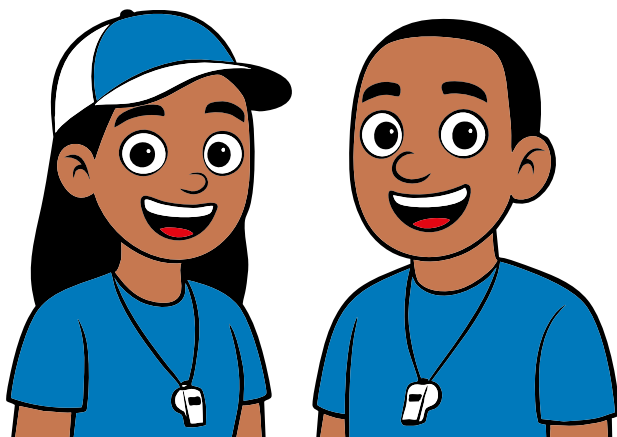


Educator Tip

To support schools in organising and managing the Play Together Global Football Festival, the following section provides practical guidelines on team composition, match format, event structure and resources required to run the festival successfully.

FESTIVAL FORMAT AND GUIDELINES

SECTION 6



The Play Together Global Football Festival is organised as a mass participation event where learners participate in friendly football matches while representing countries from around the world.

The festival celebrates the movement, creativity and teamwork that learners have developed during the MoveTogether and CreateTogether activities.

To ensure that the event runs smoothly and that all learners have an opportunity to participate, the following guidelines are provided to assist educators in planning and managing the festival.

Event Overview

The festival is designed to allow large groups of learners to participate in football-inspired activities and friendly mini matches.

Teams represent different countries and rotate through matches during the event. The emphasis of the festival is on participation, teamwork and enjoyment rather than competition.

Schools may organise the festival as a half-day or full-day event, depending on the number of learners participating.

Team Composition

Teams should be structured to encourage balanced and inclusive participation.

Recommended team structure:

- 6 Players on the field at a time
- 3 Girls and 3 boys must play at all times
- Additional learners rotate regularly

This structure encourages gender balance and ensures that both boys and girls participate actively in the games.

Educators should also ensure that learners with disabilities are included and supported so that they can participate meaningfully.

Playing Format

Mini football matches are played using a small-sided six-a-side format.

Small-sided games allow more learners to interact with the ball and remain actively involved during matches.

Recommended format

- 6 Players per team on the field. Team must be made up of girls and boys.
- Additional players rotate regularly
- Matches last approximately 8-10 minutes
- No half-time break

Short matches help maintain energy and allow multiple teams to participate during the festival.

Festival format and event guidelines continued

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Match Rules

To maintain a positive and inclusive festival environment, simplified rules should be applied.

Suggested rules include:

- No slide tackling
- No red cards
- Fair play and respectful behaviour expected
- Educators act as facilitators or referees
- Players rotate so that all learners have the opportunity to participate

These simplified rules help ensure that matches remain safe, fair and enjoyable for all learners.

Festival Schedule

Schools may organise the festival according to the time available and the number of learners participating.

A typical festival schedule may include

- Opening Ceremony
- Parade of Nations
- Friendly Mini Matches
- Closing Celebration

Matches may be organised across several small playing areas so that multiple games can take place at the same time.

Participation Recognition

The Play Together Global Football Festival celebrates participation and teamwork.

Schools are encouraged to recognise learners for

- Teamwork
- Enthusiasm and participation
- Creativity in team identity
- Demonstration of fair play

Recognition may take the form of certificates, team acknowledgements or a closing celebration where all teams are congratulated.

Event Resources

Schools may organise the following resources to support the festival:

- Footballs
- Cones or markers for playing areas
- Team flags and banners
- Whistles or timers
- First aid support

Additional resources such as sound equipment or music may be used to create a festive atmosphere.

Festival format and event guidelines continued

Mini match rules and field setup

- During the Play Together Global Football Festival, learners participate in small-sided mini football matches.
- Small-sided games allow more learners to be involved in the game, increase ball contact, and help learners develop confidence in their football skills.
- Matches should be played in a fun, safe and inclusive environment, where participation and teamwork are prioritised.
- Educators should adapt the field size and match duration according to the age group of the learners.

Key Festival Rules

To maintain a positive and inclusive festival atmosphere, the following rules should apply across all matches:

- Fair play and respectful behaviour must be encouraged
- No slide tackling
- Educators act as facilitators or referees
- All learners should have an opportunity to participate
- Matches should remain friendly and fun

The goal of the festival is to celebrate movement, teamwork and participation, rather than competition.

	Early Childhood Development (ECD)	Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3)	Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6)
Overview	For younger learners, the focus should be on movement, participation and enjoyment rather than structured competition.	Learners begin to develop more structured football skills such as passing and teamwork.	Older learners can participate in slightly more structured mini matches.
Recommended Format	4 vs 4	5 vs 5	6 vs 6
Field Size	Small playing area marked with cones	Medium mini field marked with cones	Larger mini field
Match Duration	5-6 minutes per match	6-8 minutes per match	8-10 minutes per match
Rules and Regulations	• No goalkeepers • Learners rotate regularly • Educators guide the game and assist learners • Emphasis on dribbling and kicking the ball	• No slide tackling • Players rotate regularly • Educators encourage passing and teamwork • Focus on skill development rather than winning	• No slide tackling • Fair play and respect expected • Teams rotate after each match • Educators facilitate the games
Notes	The goal at this stage is to allow learners to explore movement and enjoy playing with the ball.	Learners should be encouraged to support their teammates and play cooperatively.	This format allows learners to apply the football skills they have practised during the MoveTogether activities.

INTRA CLASS CELEBRATION DAY

CIRCUIT
SETUP

*Learners
Play Together
in their
allocated teams
aligned to their house
system colours.*



PHASE	ECD	FOUNDATION PHASE	INTERMEDIATE PHASE
GAMES	Rabbits and Hyena's	Football Hand Soccer	Football Hand Soccer / Dodge Ball

PROGRAMME PARTNERS



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**Good
moves**

Active Schools, South Africa



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