



# Murakaza Neza!



**TEACH  
Rwanda**

Teacher Education and Children's Enrichment

Welcome to Our  
TEACH Rwanda Preschool  
3<sup>rd</sup> Edition





# TEACH Rwanda

Teacher Education and Children's Enrichment

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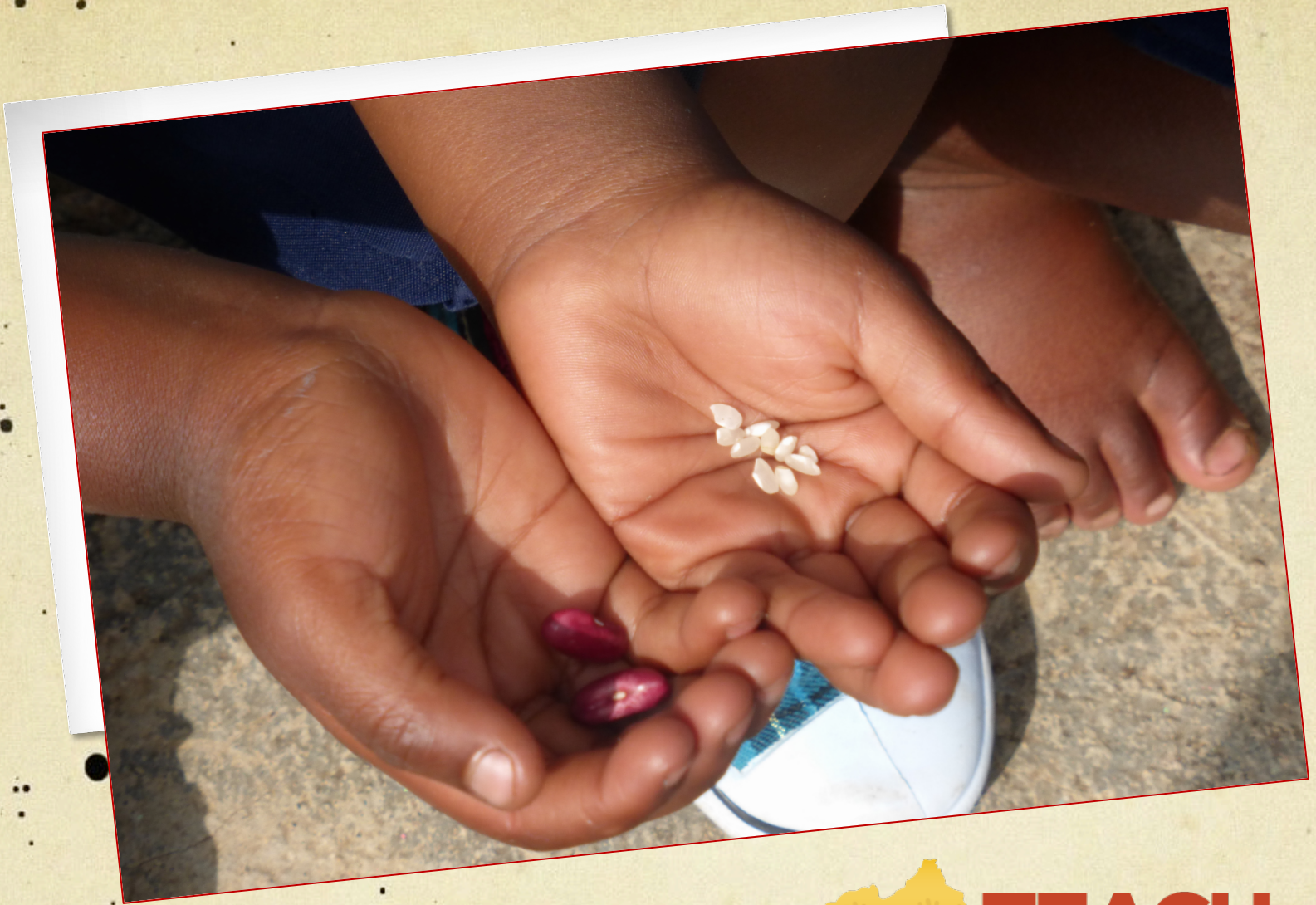
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Our TEACH Rwanda preschool is a lively place to learn!  
We leave our shoes at the door when we arrive.





First, we greet each other in our friendly Rwandan way.

We say a prayer to thank God for our blessings. We sing.

Then we plan what we will do during our day.





We have many choices at school. Each day we pick what interests us to play with, because that's how we learn.

Our teachers connect what we already know with new ideas. They help us think analytically!





The children's books in our school library are filled with information and stories in Kinyarwanda, English, and French.

We are learning to recognize letters, our names, and words. We learn how to take care of our books.

Soon we will be able to read. We can continue to love to learn all of our lives!







Our classroom shelves have fascinating items to explore—from Rwanda and around the world.

Colorful Rwandan baskets hold our markers, blocks, toy vehicles, rocks, magnifying glasses, seashells, dolls, banana fiber puzzles, and Rwandan musical instruments.





When we use learning materials like these, we figure out how things work. We solve problems—like how to tie knots and what plants and animals need to grow! Our teachers ask us questions to help us think analytically.

We put our learning materials back on the shelves when we finish, so other children can find them. We are responsible! We are learning executive function skills.





Learning with hands-on experiences expands our imaginations. We are curious about people, nature, and the world around us.

We work together to take good care of ourselves and our country. We help each other learn!





Sometimes we sculpt with Rwandan clay. Eric, a potter, showed us how to roll and form clay.



We learned to keep our clay wet with drops of water. It is slippery and cool. We are Rwandan artists!





Our class often walks around our village.  
We see how Rwandan homes are built  
by watching masons at work.

We carried bricks at a construction site.  
They are heavy! We are learning math and physics.





Back in our classroom, we put together buildings with blocks.

A few weeks later, we went back to see progress on the brick house. It was almost finished.

We may grow up to be architects or build hospitals and schools in Rwanda.





Eric, who is 4, plays the drum for our class to dance, sing, and march. He's a really good drummer!



We learn more Rwandan music every day. Even our school guard plays and sings with us!





A Rwandan musician showed us how to  
play his colorful umuduri.  
It was made with a gourd, a wire, and a stick.  
We can make our own instruments, too.





Plants—pineapple, bananas, avocados, cassava, sweet potatoes, beans, mangoes—grow in Rwandan gardens during our rainy seasons. They are delicious and help us stay healthy.

With magnifying glasses, we look at plant leaves, fruits, and roots. Each one has a different color, shape, and texture!  
We are young natural scientists.





When we study plants, our class sets up a pretend outdoor market with fruit and vegetables. Our families buy and sell food in markets just like this.

We designed imaginary Rwandan Francs with paper, markers, and scissors. We made lots of money!

Eric, in the yellow hat, was our shopkeeper.





Isabella, Esther, Ernest, Denise, and Eric came to the market to buy food with their money.

Ivan bought a pineapple. He took it home to his wife, Nadia. He said she was taking care of their children.

Science and math are everywhere! We begin to understand how farmers and shopkeepers strengthen our Rwandan economy.





Every day, our teachers read us a story.  
They hold books so we can see the pictures.  
They point out words and read with expression.

Some books tell about people in Rwanda. Some are about animals, or weather, or the ocean. Some are folktales, some are real stories, and some are imaginary. We love them all!





- We have seashells to study, too, although oceans are far away. We dream of seeing rivers, lakes, or an ocean.
- Louise, who started Bright School, flew over an ocean to study early childhood education in the United States. Someday, maybe we can go there to thank the generous people who support TEACH Rwanda—or to study ourselves.





Sometimes we imagine we are characters in books. We use Rwandan baskets, hats, dolls, scarves, and other props to retell stories such as *Pretty Salma* and *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain*.

When we act out stories, we remember the plot sequence, learn to make good choices, and get to know the characters and settings.





We like to draw. We design outdoors with sidewalk chalk.  
On paper, we write with markers and crayons.

Our scribbles go round and round, up and down, and back and forth. As we get older, some of us make marks that are starting to look like letters, numerals, or pictures.

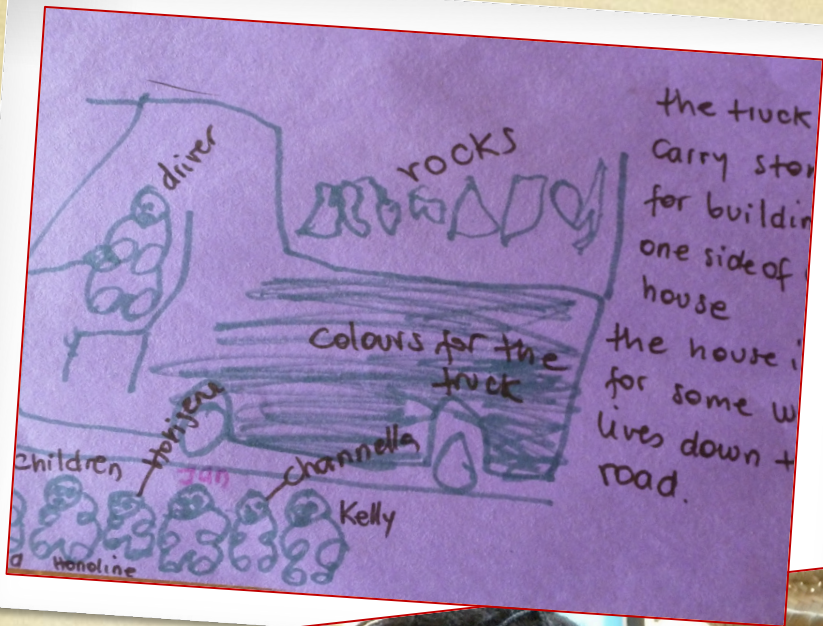




When we get older, we will write and draw  
so people can understand what we mean.

For now, our teachers say, "Tell us about your work,"  
and they write what we say.





Some of us draw snakes. Some draw people. Others make squiggly designs. We explain our ideas. Our pictures and words show our teachers and families what we are learning.

Cyntia told her teacher she was drawing "Many Children." Look for her completed work at the end of this book.

Symbols—scribbles, pictures, letters, numerals, drawings—are all early literacy skills.







Each of us has a journal, a book of our own.  
We write stories, spell our names, shape numerals,  
and try different colors or designs.

Our teachers mark the date so we can see our progress.  
We are Rwandan writers and illustrators!





We string beads and line up bottlecaps  
in mathematical patterns with shapes and colors.  
We count how many beads we use, too.  
Our fingers are strong and nimble!





We wash our hands with soap and water.  
We use the bathroom on our own.  
We want to grow up—healthy and strong.





We eat porridge every day at school, in our traditional Rwandan way.

When we have enough to eat with fresh water to drink—and actively explore with a variety of learning materials—our brains and bodies grow strong.

We ARE Rwanda's future leaders!





It's fun to pretend to be grown up.  
We wrap scarves around ourselves—so we use geometry.  
We tromp around in boots. We wear vests and hats.

We dream of becoming parents, pilots, construction workers,  
teachers, architects, doctors, or firefighters.  
We will be the best Rwandans we can be!





We practice being good parents.  
In Rwanda, women breast-feed their babies.  
We pretend to do that, too.

Mothers carry babies on their backs.  
We help each other wrap our dolls.  
We cooperate with our friends!





## Wooden puzzles

—some with African animals and some with sea creatures—  
are SO interesting. We figure out how shapes and colors  
match. By ourselves, we discover how pieces fit together.  
For all of our lives, we will solve problems and challenges.





Often, we walk around our neighborhood. We study Rwandan homes, people, plants, transportation, and animals. We take notes and sketch what we see.

Gaudence lived near our first school. She told about her long life! We learned Rwandan history from her stories.





Teachers from around the world visit our school. They are curious to see how we learn with active, hands-on experiences! They tell us about their countries.

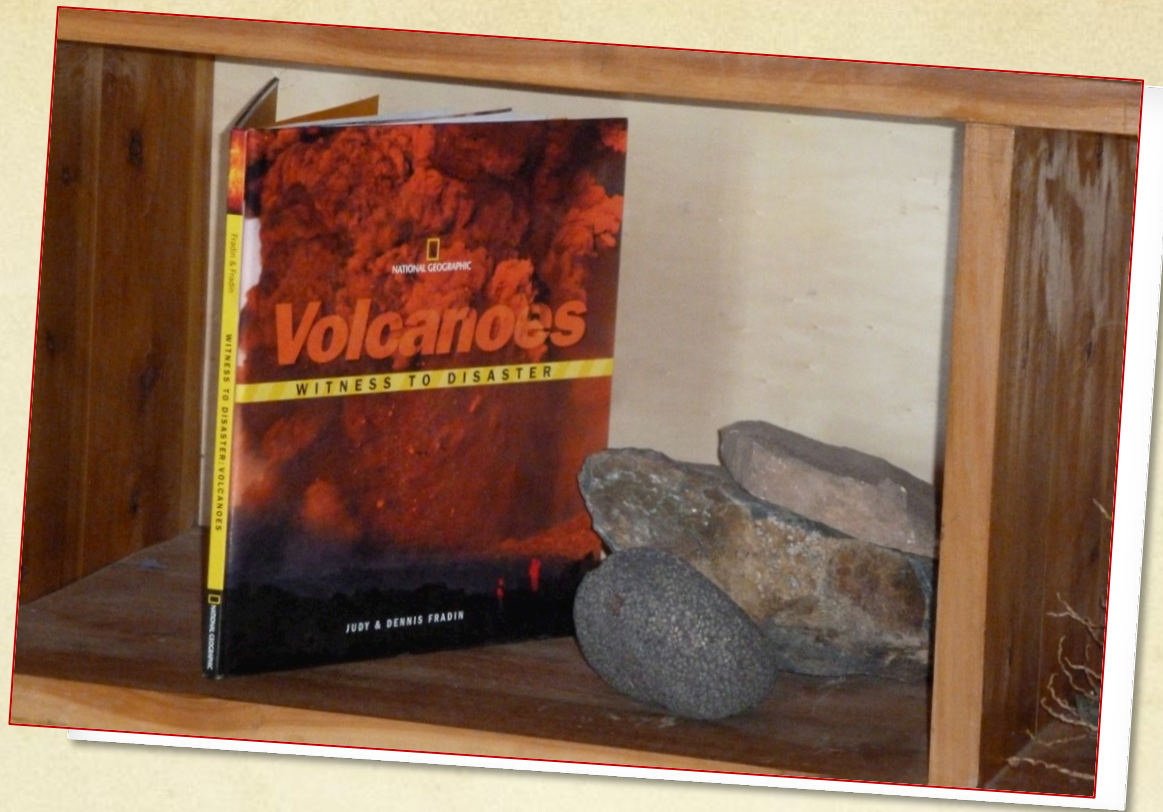
We show visitors how young children learn best—*when we play, talk with each other, try out our own ideas, create, and figure things out for ourselves!*





Water and sand are favorite learning materials.  
We pour and measure with recycled containers.  
How much will each container hold? Sometimes water spills over.  
We watch it flow downhill because of gravity.  
Physics is real to us.





We sift rocks from sand, like grownups sift them from rice or corn.  
We sort stones from large to small—or from smooth to rough, or  
heavy to light. We count how many rocks we have.  
We can match them one-to-one with blocks.

Louise brought us an amazing porous stone  
from a volcano in Rwanda.  
We are so excited to learn about nature!





When we add water to sand, it sticks together!  
Outdoors, we watch our shadows change each hour.  
Every day we learn physics and math  
while we play in the sunshine.





Games, when we run, play tag, or catch balls,  
are a great way to use our arm and leg muscles.  
We love to dance, too.

We are growing taller and stronger!





Whew! We had another busy day.  
It's time to share with each other what we learned.  
We discovered new English, French, and Kinyarwandan words.  
Some of our friends figured out how to connect blocks.  
We danced and sang to Rwandan music.  
We read a fascinating story and imitated sounds.  
**When WE review our day, we remember what we learn.**





Each term, our families meet with our teachers. They talk about what we are learning. Our families have ideas about how they can help our school and village improve.

Our families elect officers for their group. They are Rwandan leaders, too!





Here is Cynthia's finished picture of "Many Children"! She drew round, straight, and jagged lines with a black marker. She filled her paper with children.

We invite you to visit our school in Muhanga soon! Every day is different.

TEACH Rwanda schools are exciting places to play and learn—because together we are building Rwanda's bright future!





Teacher Education and Children's Enrichment

**TEACH Rwanda schools** support Early Childhood and Primary Development. Rwandan teachers implement international best practices that honor children's life experiences and their country's traditions. Each classroom features many different discovery areas.

We enrich the Rwandan Competency-Based Curriculum. Our curious children are learning—to plan, think, solve problems, communicate, and work together—so that they can become Rwanda's leaders.

Families are actively involved in their children's educations in every TEACH Rwanda program. All of our Exemplary and Project schools are working toward self-sufficiency.

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