





# Marina Fischer

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Resident Agent passionate about **Boardwalk Meander** and it's people

> Repeatedly awarded the Top Individual Agent in SA

30 Years of Realtor experience - 28 Years with RE/MAX









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## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Stoeptalk Readers!

Autumn and Winter are the perfect seasons to embrace the beauty of indoor plants.

For inspiration and practical tips, visit www.lifeisagarden.co.za. You'll find a helpful checklist on how to care for your plants during the cooler months, along with a monthly planting guide tailored to your province.

Another fantastic resource is www.gardeninginsouthafrica.co.za, where you can learn which plants thrive in sun or shade and get expert advice on how to care for them.

We'd love to hear from you too! Share your favourite Autumn and Winter gardening ideas, indoor plant décor tips, or heartwarming plant stories with us.

Be sure to see the pages setting out all the

amazing sculptures on your estate - with details of where each one is.

And finally, a very Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful moms out there!

Enjoy this edition,

- Angela







Stoep Talk focuses on Boardwalk Meander Estate. The magazine is compiled and published by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd trading as EIA Publishing, on behalf of the Boardwalk Meander Home Owners Association (HOA) Board of Directors. The opinions of personnel of Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd do not necessarily reflect those of the HOA and Management of Boardwalk Meander Estate. Articles written are edited for grammar; they reflect the authentic styles of the writers. We encourage residents to contribute to the estate magazine. Contributions may be forwarded to office@estatebwm.co.za

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Hello

Tyd staan nie stil nie – seisoene ook nie – die winter het arriveer sonder waarskuwing. You will realize this if you leave your house at the same time as a few weeks back ... in the dark!

Daar was 'n aantal vakansiedae en sommer 'n "bonus" skoolvakansie – gemengde gevoelens hieroor natuurlik want iewers moet mens werk.

Skole sport is in volle swang en mens besef weereens dat Suid-Afrika se skole sport van die beste in die wêreld is. It is great to see our neighbours and residents taking part in the different sporting codes and achieving so much. The term will now be long with mid-year exams coming up — yes we are nearly halfway into the year.

Pretoria was blessed with an abundance of rain - you can see the results of this if you look at the beautiful gardens and green areas. Thanks to Don and his team for working at this to get ahead. Things will be easier during the winter months – time to get ahead and beautify our estate as part of our maintenance. Thanks to all involved for keeping up the standards and service delivery in and around the estate.

We are in constant communication with the ward councillors to assist us with getting the municipality to be more efficient and do their duties. Burst pipes, electrical issues etc. are reported and unfortunately not solved. Although it is not our duty to do so, we try and take up these duties as far as possible to ensure problems are addressed. John and his team are constantly fighting this, and I would like to also thank them for this which is most often a challenge.

Afrikaans is 100 jaar oud – een eeu – baie geluk en ons is dankbaar om in ons taal te kan skryf, kuier, werk en kommunikeer . Ons beplan 'n baie lekker dag rondom Erfenisdag in September en ons sal behoorlike fees vier. Hou die kommunikasie kanale dop vir inligting hieroor.

Sterkte vir elkeen vir die winter wat voorlê en mag dit gou verby gaan. Ek wil dit nie hard sê nie maar die krag situasie is stukke beter – mag dit verder verbeter.

Ons is tans besig om van die diensverskaffers se ooreenkomste te hersien en sal informasie hieroor ook binnekort met almal deel.

Daar is onlangs opgraderings aan die sekuriteit stelsel gedoen om te verseker ons bly voor in terme van tegnologie wat beskikbaar is.

Dit bly 'n voorreg om hier te kan woon en ons doen ons bes om ons blyplek wêreldklas te hou.

Groete en veilig wees.

- Deon

## **BOARDWALK WEB PAGE**

Fantastic news - the estate web page is up and running!!!

www.boardwalkmeander.co.za



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# FROM THE OFFICE PEN

Good day to all our residents.

Firstly, I have to thank the people who sent in photos and articles for our next edition. Please know that your participation is so much appreciated. Should you know of any other person who would also like to get involved to help fill our magazine – ask them to contact me for more information.

We would love to get feedback on the magazine. Please drop me an email and tell me what you think and what other types of articles you would like to see included.

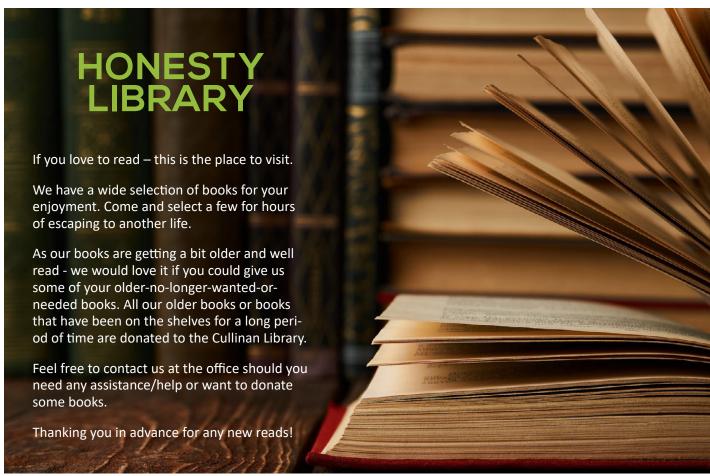
Remember to inform us should any of your contact details i.e. contact number/s or e-mail addresses change. We appreciate the co-operation in this regard to keep your records updated. Any changes can be sent to office@ estatebwm.co.za .

Take care

-René

"Don't wait. The time will never be just right" – Napoleon Hill







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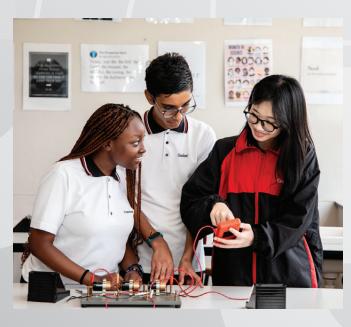
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## **ESTATE SCULPTURES**

n 1994 Anton Smit put 35 sculptures on exhibition in New York at the Grand Central Station. He has held numerous exhibitions throughout South Africa and his work was also exhibited in Rome and Milan in Italy.

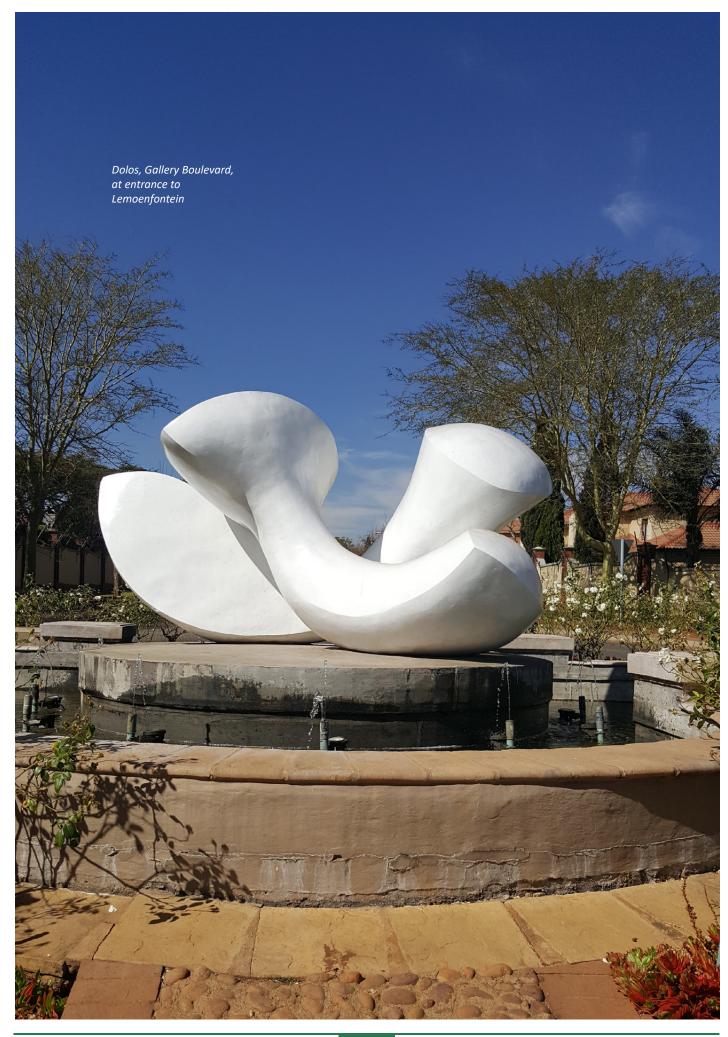
He is also the artist behind the sculptures at Menlyn Maine.

We are very fortunate to have some of Anton's creations displayed on our Estate situated on the traffic circles. They are exclusive to our Estate.









## PHOTOS BY OUR RESIDENTS

Hendrik Deysel captured these magnificent images of giant cumulonimbus clouds behind the Estate, but reflecting perfectly in the lake inside the Estate. The clouds seemed to glow from within, contrasting beautifully with the

deep blue of the late summer sky.

Thanks so much Hendrik for sharing this truly beautiful scene that some of us may have missed!



## **IFESTYLE**





## PLANTS THAT REPEL **MOSQUITOES**



### **MARIGOLDS**

Not only do they make your landscape more attractive, but marigolds also have a distinct smell that repels mosquitoes. Plant from seed or get a starter plant from a nursery or floral department. Place potted marigolds near mosquito entry-points, such as doors and windows, or on a deck or balcony where you spend a lot of time outdoors. They also deter insects that prey on tomato plants — an added bonus for gardeners.



#### **CITRONELLA**

Citronella is one of the most common ingredients in insect repellents, due to its strong smell, which masks mosquito attractants. The perennial clumping grass grows 5 to 6 feet, and can be planted in the ground or kept in large pots. Citronella plants thrive best in full sun and areas with good drainage.



Warning: Your catnip might bring all the cats to the yard. The perennial herb, related to mint, is easy to grow. While it repels mosquitoes in close proximity, some people apply crushed leaves for more protection.

#### **BASIL**

Enjoy delicious pesto dishes, and keep mosquitoes at bay, with this insect-repelling herb. Basil is one of the few herbs in which you don't have to crush the leaves to reap its benefits. Lemon basil and cinnamon basil are the best varieties to prevent unwanted pests.

## **LEMON BALM**

Also known as horsemint, lemon balm's aroma wards off mosquitoes, but attracts pollinators like bees and butterflies. It's fast growing, drought resistant and reseeds itself, so consider planting in a pot rather than in your yard to avoid a lemon balm takeover.

## **LAVENDER**

In addition to smelling lovely, aiding in relaxation and promoting restful sleep, lavender dissuades mosquitoes and gnats from invading your outdoor dinner party when planted in the garden or in pots placed by windows, doors and entertainment areas. The dried flowers can also be placed in wardrobes to repel moths.





Issue 2 · 2025



# PET "PARENT" OR "OWNER"?

ove and care is all a pet ever asks for.
A pet does not know how to not love
you – they show it every time they
see you.

Are you a pet "parent" or pet "owner"? This is a matter that is very heavy on my heart. Why would you get a pet if you are not planning to look after it for its whole life?

We had a very sad situation on the estate a few weeks back. A resident had a cat. This resident then decided to get two small dogs. They terrorized the cat who then ran away and sought shelter elsewhere. This resident, in the meantime, has moved out of the estate, and the cat returned looking for its home.

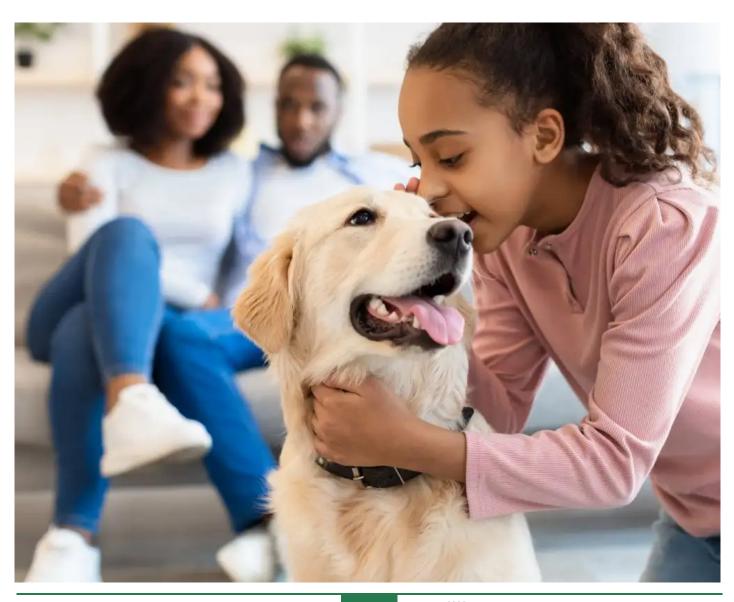
This beautiful animal received shelter and care from a treasure of a human being — tannie Fresea — jou sorg vir hierdie dier sal altyd onthou word. Tannie Fresea kon nie meer na hom omsien nie toe beland hy by Dr Conrad waar hy vir 'n paar weke versorg is. Dr Conrad is baie uithuisig en kon ook nie permanent vir hom sorg nie. Baie dankie vir die tyd wat hy by jou kon skuiling kry en sorg ontvang. Dok — jy is 'n spesiale mens met 'n sagte hart.

We contacted the SPCA who were happy to fetch the cat but there was a possibility it would be euthanised. Jolanda and I could not let that happen. Wetnose agreed to take him. We borrowed a cat cage from another resident (thank you Diana) and took him to Wetnose. This poor pet looked

so forlorn and sad. I felt like the worst kind of person leaving him there. For a split second I wondered if I should take him home but my Smokie cat and Jessie dog would not have liked that.

So, my last remark on this subject is this:- If you are not a pet "Parent" but only a pet "Owner" – please do not get the pet! You will not stick it out for that pets' life and somebody else's heart will break. Please – think twice and think again before you get a pet. It should be a lifelong commitment, and you should be doing your total best to care for that animal to the best of your ability for the rest of its life.

-René





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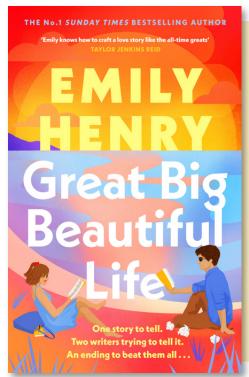


# ESTATE RULES: PETS

(As indicated in the Conduct Rules)

- 1.1 Don't let your pet become a bone of contention between you and your neighbours.
- 1.2 The local authority by-laws relating to pets will be strictly enforced.
- 1.3 Residents may NOT keep more than two (2) dogs or two (2) cats on their property or one (1) dog and one (1) cat without the written permission of the Board.
- 1.4 Poultry, pigeons, aviaries, wild animals or livestock may not be kept on the Estate.
- 1.5 Should any excrement be deposited in a public area, the immediate removal thereof shall be the sole responsibility of the owner of the pet. Neglect to comply may result in a penalty the amount of which will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 1.6 Every pet must wear a collar with a tag indicating the name, telephone number and address of its owner.
- 1.7 No pets are allowed to roam the streets.
- 1.8 Roaming pets will be caught and temporarily housed in cages at the main gate for a maximum period of three (3) days where after the pet will be handed over to the local SPCA without notice to the owner. The Company reserves the right to charge the owner for having housed the animal.
- 1.9 In the event of the owner being known to the Estate Manager, or the owner becoming

- known to the Estate Manager, a penalty may be levied, depending on the circumstances leading to the animal being outside of the owners stand.
- 1.10 Dogs must be walked on a leash in public areas. Streets, parks and open areas are defined as public areas.
- 1.11 The Board reserves the right to request the owner to remove their pet should it become a nuisance on the Estate.
- 1.12 The owner will be responsible for any damage or injury caused to property/ persons/other animals within the Estate by their pets.
- 1.13 Dogs are to be exercised on a leash only and are are restricted to streets and walkways.
- 1.14 Owners and residents must make arrangements with external people, neighbours or institutions to take care of their pets, away from home, when they are on vacation or absent from their home for two days or more. Owners are not allowed to leave their pet unattended or to get someone to oversee the pet from time to time at home. The barking and crying of the pet during the day and night causes extreme nuisance for neighbours. The SPCA or a similar organization will be notified of such a situation and the pet removed. The owner will be responsible for all costs of the impounding of such pet.



## GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE

By Emily Henry

When Margaret Ives, the famously reclusive heiress, invites eternal optimist Alice Scott to the balmy Little Crescent Island, Alice knows this is it: her big break. And even more rare: a chance to impress her family with a Serious Publication.

*The catch*? Pulitzer-prize winning human thundercloud, Hayden Anderson, is sure of the same thing.

The proposal? A one-month trial period to unearth the truth behind one of the most scandalous families of the 20th Century, after which she'll choose who'll tell her story.

The problem? Margaret only gives each of them tantalising pieces. Pieces they can't put together because of an ironclad NDA and an inconvenient yearning pulsing between them every time they're in the same room.

And it's becoming abundantly clear that their story, just like the tale Margaret's spinning, could be a mystery, tragedy, or love ballad - depending on who's telling it.

Price: R370.00

## THE HIDDEN GIRL

By Lucinda Riley

Born and raised in a small village on the Yorkshire moors, Leah Thompson grows more beautiful with each passing day. When she catches the attention of the influential, troubled Delancey family, she knows her life will never be the same again.

Years later, Leah takes the modelling world by storm, travelling from Milan to London and New York and living life in the lap of luxury. But her past follows her like a dark shadow, mysteriously intertwined with the tragic tale of two young siblings in Poland during the Second World War.

As two generations of secrets threaten to explode, Leah is haunted by a fatal, forgotten prophecy from her past, and must fight to challenge the destiny that has been mapped out for her in the stars.

THE HIDDEN GIRL
The International No. 1 Bestseller
Lucinda
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SEVEN S
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Price: R395.00

## THE TEA MERCHANT

By Jackie Phamotse

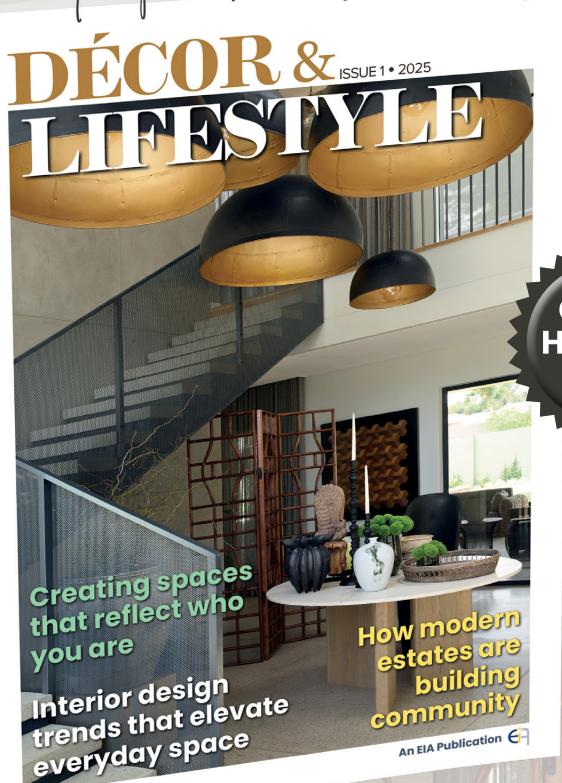
It is 2005, a time of silent anticipation and hidden possibilities in the rugged Cederberg mountains. Cameron Coal is embroiled in a desperate fight to save his family's rooibos farm, which is a hair's breadth from bankruptcy, while wrestling overwhelming grief after his wife's death and trying to build a relationship with his blind daughter. His father, John, might be the family's last hope to save their farm from an enemy lurking in plain sight. But in the shadows, Cameron's brother, Sole, harbours a secret that could shatter their world.

Amid the chaos of a veld fire, Cameron's gaze falls upon an enigmatic nurse, Luna Parks, who is new to their town. As Luna and Cameron grow closer, her mysterious past and closely guarded secrets could shatter the very foundation of their relationship.

Price: R310.00

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## **DECOR TRENDS**

hen it comes to decorating with dark and moody paint colours, brown room ideas are expected to reign supreme. Rich chocolate tones fill rooms with warmth and cosiness while appearing more inviting than shades such as black.

For interior paint trends in 2025, expect a move towards warm, earthy neutrals like terracotta, ochre and clay pink, alongside rich, deep jewel tones and bold, statement colours like eggplant purple and deep reds, with colour drenching also gaining popularity.

In 2025, expect wallpaper trends to embrace nature, bold patterns and textures with nature-inspired designs, metallic accents and 3D effects making a strong comeback, while organic shapes and landscape murals also gain popularity.



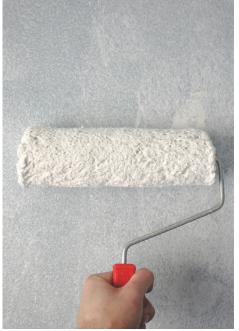
It's no secret that trends have been emerging from our latest food obsessions. Wallpapers featuring tomato vine, pomegranates and strawberries are growing in popularity.

No more au naturel - sisal is getting a major upgrade. Think dyed colours, intricate patterns and unexpected elements like striated, delicately handmade, metalliccoated Kalliste Wallcoverings by Elitis.

# ON THE WALL









If your walls could talk, it would be through wallpaper. This year, we will be seeing a lot of imaginative wallpaper that tells unique stories. Embellished walls may not be anything new, but more and more brands are introducing new embroidered wall coverings. Opt for fantastical, truly three-dimensional wall coverings, or choose a more subtle but equally special design, like Miro paper adorned with wooden beads from Arte, as a way to include the trend in a space.





Wall art, as always, plays a pivotal role in defining the ambiance of our living spaces. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a decorator, or someone looking to refresh home décor, staying ahead of these trends can ensure a space feels fresh, stylish and inspiring.

Flat surfaces are out this year and textured, three-dimensional art is in. These artworks invite viewers to engage with them beyond just visual appreciation, encouraging touch and interaction. Expect to see pieces made from a variety of materials such as wood, metal, fabric and mixed media that add depth and dimension to walls. This trend not only adds visual interest, but also transforms wall art into a tactile experience.

While minimalism has had its moment, 2025 is bringing a return to bold, vibrant and eclectic styles. Maximalist collages - where various patterns, colours and textures are combined, will become a popular way to make a statement. These pieces often combine vintage and modern elements, resulting in a richly layered look that demands attention. Think of walls filled with an abundance of art that tells a story through its diversity and complexity.

More and more people incorporate fabric décor as a way to add texture to a space in a way that a traditional painting or framed photograph cannot achieve.

Fabric wall décor comes in all sorts of shapes, sizes and styles. Try traditional options like wall tapestries or



upholstered walls, or get a bit more creative by hanging embroidered art, macramé, fabric panels, or vintage scarves.

Whether trying to create a bold focal point or add subtle texture, there are lots of ways to incorporate fabric wall décor into a space.



# Layer it up! In 2025 the mantra is simple: More is truly more!

This year, home décor will see a playful explosion of brilliantly bold patterns, eclectic prints and textures that make you want to reach out and touch every surface. It's about mixing the unmixable, pairing stripes with florals and tossing in some polka dots for good measure.

n 2025, more homeowners will consider bright red or turquoise frames for modern abstract art or a gold-leaf frame for a classic oil painting. Explore environmentally friendly frames made from recycled materials such as reclaimed wood or metal for a truly unique look.

Shadow box frames perfectly display three-dimensional objects, such as medals, souvenirs or family heirlooms. These deep frames create a captivating display, allowing one to showcase treasures uniquely and personally.

In 2025, shadow boxes will continue to be used in increasing creative ways,

incorporating mixed media and unexpected elements. Consider adding fabric backgrounds, layered objects or lighting to create a truly unique display.

Gone are the days of matching frames for every piece of art. This year's all about mixing and matching different frame styles, colours and materials to create a curated and eclectic look.

Combine ornate antique frames with sleek modern ones, or mix metal and wood frames for a unique visual contrast. The key is creating a cohesive look that reflects your style and complements the artworks.

## TIPS FOR FRAMING AND ART:

- Consider the artwork's style: Choose a frame that complements the style of the artwork, whether it's modern, classic or somewhere in between.
- Pay attention to colour: The frame's colour should enhance the artwork, not compete with it.
- Choose the right size: The frame should be proportional to the artwork, neither too small nor too large.
- Don't be afraid to experiment: Try different frame styles and layouts until you find something you like.

## **DECOR TRENDS**

Lines and symmetry, a grid-style photo wall is a perfect choice for black and white prints. Arrange them in identical frames in a neat, evenly spaced grid to create a structural, elegant look to give the living room a sophisticated gallery-like feel.

Want to make a bold statement? Choose one or two oversized frames instead of a cluster of smaller ones. A large black-and-white portrait, an abstract art print, or a landscape photo can serve as a stunning focal point in a living room.

For a sophisticated and timeless look, consider stretching rolled canvas paintings or prints to transform them into stunning artwork for the living room. Canvas stretching enhances the piece by providing structure and a gallery-style finish, making it a perfect focal point. Whether it's a bold abstract, a serene landscape, or a vintage masterpiece, stretched canvas artwork adds depth and elegance to a space.

Hanging wall art in the bedroom can transform the space, but it's essential to do it thoughtfully. A vertical arrangement can make a room appear more expansive. A simple way to do this is to frame three prints of the same size and colour palette and create a triptych along one long wall.

It's essential to ensure that the space has just the right amount of art, not too much or too little. When in doubt, put up less art rather than more, unless you're a true-blue maximalist, so go wild!

However, remember that you sometimes need to adjust the art based on the height of the furniture. So don't be afraid of hanging it high if it feels right.



















## KINDER-KOMPAS

## HOW EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPS EFFECTIVE SOCIAL SKILLS AND ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

n today's fast-paced, interconnected world, emotional intelligence (EQ) is more important than ever. It's the ability to recognize, understand, and manage our own emotions, while also empathizing with others. High EQ is not just about being "nice"—it's a skill set that helps people build meaningful relationships, collaborate effectively, and navigate life's challenges. For children, developing emotional intelligence can be a game-changer, laying the foundation for not only strong social skills but also essential life skills that will benefit them for years to come.

## THE LINK BETWEEN EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills are the abilities that allow us to interact harmoniously with others. These skills arecrucial for success in school, work, and personal relationships. Emotional intelligence plays asignificant role in developing these skills, as it enables individuals to communicate, empathize, and cooperate effectively. Here's how emotional intelligence directly influences social abilities:

**1.EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:** Children with high EQ are better at expressing their feelings andthoughts in a clear, respectful way. They are also better listeners, allowing them to understandothers' perspectives and respond appropriately.

**Example:** A child with strong emotional intelligence might say, "I feel frustrated when you take my toys without asking. I'd like you to ask first next time." Instead of yelling or acting out, they use words to express their feelings, fostering respectful communication.

## 2. EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING:

Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, is a core component of emotional intelligence. Children who can empathize with others are more likely to form positive, supportive relationships and resolve conflicts peacefully.

**Example:** If a friend is upset because they didn't do well on a test, a child with high EQ might say, "I know that feels disappointing. Do you want to talk about it or practice together next time?" This shows that the child understands the friend's feelings and is offering support.

**3. CONFLICT RESOLUTION:** Children with emotional intelligence are more equipped to handle conflicts without resorting to aggression or withdrawal. They are able to remain calm, assess the situation, and find peaceful resolutions.

**Example:** When two children argue over a game, a child with high EQ might suggest,

"Let's take turns playing, so everyone gets a chance." They don't react impulsively but instead approach the situation with patience and problem-solving skills.

### 4. COOPERATION AND TEAMWORK: High

EQ enables children to collaborate effectively, contributing to group projects or team activities. They are able to consider others' feelings, communicate clearly, and work together toward common goals.

**Example:** In a group project, a child with high EQ will actively listen to teammates, provide constructive feedback, and encourage others to share their ideas. Their ability to cooperate creates a positive and productive group dynamic.

## HOW EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPS OTHER ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

Beyond social skills, emotional intelligence plays a critical role in developing essential life skills that children need to thrive. These include:

**1. Self-Regulation:** Children with high EQ can manage their emotions effectively, particularly in stressful situations. This self-regulation allows them to remain focused, make thoughtful decisions, and avoid rash reactions.

**Example:** If a child becomes upset over a difficult homework assignment, they may take a short break, breathe deeply, and return to the task with a clearer mindset rather than giving up or becoming frustrated.

**2. Resilience:** Emotional intelligence helps children build resilience by encouraging them to view challenges as opportunities for growth. Resilient children are more likely to bounce back from setbacks, try again after failure, and maintain a positive attitude.

**Example:** If a child doesn't do well on a test, they might think, "I didn't do well this time, but I can study more and do better next time." Their emotional intelligence helps them manage disappointment and remain motivated.

**3. Self-Motivation and Initiative:** Children with high EQ are more likely to set goals and stay motivated to achieve them. They can assess their emotions to stay driven, even when faced with obstacles.

Example: A child who wants to improve in a sport may work extra hours on their skills, even if they're tired or frustrated. Their emotional intelligence helps them stay focused on long-term goals, despite short-term challenges.

4. Decision-Making and Accountability: Emo-

tional intelligence also improves decision-making skills by helping children recognize the emotional consequences of their choices. They are more likely to make decisions that align with their values and take responsibility for the outcomes

Example: If a child decides not to participate in a negative behavior (like gossiping about a classmate), their emotional intelligence helps them understand the emotional harm it could cause and choose a more constructive path.

## HOW PARENTS CAN FOSTER EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN CHILDREN

- **1. Model Emotional Awareness:** Parents can model emotional intelligence by expressing their feelings in healthy ways, discussing how they manage emotions, and acknowledging their mistakes when necessary.
- **2.Encourage Emotional Expression:** Create an open, non-judgmental space where children can talk about their feelings. This allows them to practice recognizing and expressing emotions healthily.
- **3.Promote Problem-Solving:** Instead of solving every problem for your child, encourage them to think through solutions. This helps them develop critical thinking and emotional regulation
- **4.Reinforce Empathy:** Teach children to recognize and validate others' feelings. Encourage them to consider others' perspectives and respond with kindness and understanding. **5.Foster a Growth Mindset:** Encourage children to view challenges as opportunities to grow, which helps them build resilience and self-motivation.

#### INVESTING IN EMOTIONAL INTELLI-GENCE FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS

By teaching emotional intelligence, parents are not just helping their children become better at socializing—they're setting them up for success in all areas of life. From building healthy relationships to managing stress, problem-solving, and making responsible decisions, emotional intelligence is the key to thriving in an increasingly complex world.

## GIVE YOUR CHILD THE GIFT OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Enroll your child in the EQ4Kids Programme to help them develop the emotional intelligence they need to excel in social situations and life challenges. This program offers engaging and interactive tools for nurturing EQ skills that will empower your child throughout their life. Start today—help your child develop the essential life skills they need for tomorrow!



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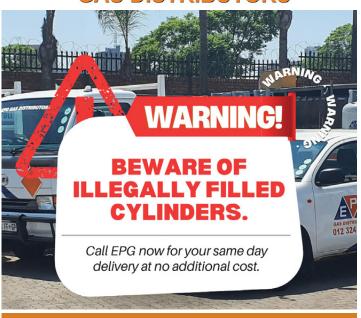






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