

## Gatesi Excellence Daycare

### Graduating Class of 2021



After over two years of COVID-19 and a lot of struggles and dedication and lots of help, we are pleased to announce that Gatesi Excellence Daycare has launched its first graduation with a total of 14 children who will now join primary school for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

It has been quite the adventure with a lot of lockdowns and moments where we wondered whether we will ever have a moment of normalcy in our day-to-day lives. However, things picked up, and we made the most of what we had, and it turned out to be a great year for us and for the kids. All of this wouldn't have happened if we didn't have a huge support system in our Yego family in Canada.

The graduation took place on Saturday, September 18, 2021, with a total of 14 kids and their 5 caregivers, 2 support staff and 3 Yego Rwanda staff in attendance, and was witnessed by 30 parents.





All these people emotionally witnessed the children perform skits and say goodbye to the audience. It was a real tearjerker for all who were there to witness. With a brief speech, Rev. Emmanuel Gatera addressed the children and the audience about the care of the little children. He said the care and support to these children is important in their upbringing which gives them various skills, Christian values like honesty, accountability, and social skills which will help them to grow up to become amazing and inspiring people. They are a blessing to their families and community and will change not only Rwanda but the world in general in a positive way. Emmanuel encouraged the parents to become more active in their children's upbringing.

The Head of daycare, Athanasie Mukarutesi, also said that the daycare was a vision that both her and her spouse had to put in place with the help of Yego Canada to make life easier for the small children whose single troubled young mothers had given birth at a very young age with no place or money to raise them. They needed a place for their children to stay while they were trying to search for food to put on the table. They hoped for a place where they could leave their children and feel safe and then Gatesi was created. To see the daycare grow, and have its children graduating, able to speak in both English and French was so emotional for their mothers, the caregivers, and us. All of us were so proud and grateful. Athanasie also mentioned how this was the first step and foundation towards their other steps that will lead them to hands-on training and future professions. She encouraged the parents to always be very attentive to their children and keep them in their prayers so that they would continue to grow and make them proud.

It was nice to witness the little kids who came to the school barely able to speak and very shy to now be able to speak and dance and sing in three different languages. This encourages and gives motivation to the little ones still in middle and baby class who are attending the daycare and for also the daycare caregivers who put in hard work every day to come and help lay the foundation needed and to care for them.



We are extremely grateful for the parents who came to witness and share the joy of the day with us and for the daycare givers and the Yego Rwanda staff who worked hard to make all this happen. We also thank Yego Rwanda, Yego Canada and all donors for their great support for helping us realizing this dream. Without God all of this wouldn't have happened, so we are also very grateful for his support and grace. Below are pictures of donated items shipped for Gatesi daycare from Edmonton, Alberta and received a month ago here in Kigali, Rwanda. These include various items such as toys, blackboards, blocks to build houses and many other items. We are very grateful to Anne and Bill Hill, Yego Canada, and all the other donors.



Rev. Emmanuel Gatera

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