Volunteers work in one of our partner preschools assisting the teachers in the classroom; helping to run lessons, giving the children one-on-one attention, working in smaller groups, developing resources and taking part in creative play. The children in the preschools are aged between 6 months - 6 years.

Volunteers also take part in afternoon community development initiatives including:
- Sports Development
- Children’s Home of Safety Project
- Gardening Initiative

*The afternoon initiatives change according to current needs in the area and may be different during the time that you volunteer. We guarantee that volunteers will take part in meaningful, productive afternoon initiatives during their time in Chintsa.

Volunteer Profile
A minimum age of 18 applies for all VA32 placements. Community Preschool volunteers require a good level of spoken English and the ability to work in a highly motivated team. Early childhood teaching experience/ an education background would be an advantage but is not essential.

This will allow maximum benefit to the project objectives.

Who Should Apply?
Energetic and creative people who love small children aged 6 months—2 years and want to help teachers in a traditional educational environment. This project is also ideal for teaching students looking for teaching practice and people considering a career in teaching foundation phase children.
The Project
Teacher Support

Preschools and attention to Early Childhood Development is one of the most overlooked and under resourced education sectors in South Africa. Through your time as a volunteer you will have a positive impact in this sector and provide much needed support to those already involved in the lives of these children.

We have partnered with several community pre-schools in a rural township environment and work closely with the teachers (who are often volunteers themselves) to enrich the daily lives of early learners. With up to 45 children in one classroom and only one or two teaching staff, these teachers desperately need extra support to provide the best possible foundation of education and care for the tiny learners. All of the preschools are very poor, under resourced and full of children from infants to six years old.

Volunteers work alongside teachers and community volunteers to fulfil the daily needs and requirements of the pre-schoolers. Project tasks include:

- Leading activities and reading with children one-to-one and in small groups
- Assisting teaching staff in delivering lessons and preparing lesson materials
- Creating and facilitating activities in art, song, dance and structured play
- Assisting teachers in resource development
- Attending to the children’s needs during meal and nap times

*Volunteers are placed in the most appropriate preschool according to current need and their skill set, to achieve maximum benefit to the aims of project.

A Typical Day

Volunteers teach in the preschools every morning Mon—Fri from 8am to 1pm. Afternoons are spent on our Community Development Initiatives (see over page), evenings and weekends are free time.
Community Development Initiatives

Interactive Sports Development

The VA32 sport’s development initiative is an exciting drive to introduce and develop on-going growth and appreciation in the sporting arena in socio-economically challenged areas of the Wild Coast. For the most part, schools lack the resources and the capacity to provide effective sports opportunities for their learners.

It is into this void that the VA32 volunteer team employ their energy, enthusiasm and skill.

The initiative strives towards creating a formal sporting framework where new sport’s disciplines, teamwork and the understanding of sport etiquette are developed. In a country such as South Africa, sport is able to encourage not only a healthy lifestyle, but also develop necessary social skills and peer understanding that is essential to the stability and well being of our society.

The sports development initiative relies heavily on volunteers to drive this program forwards. Twice weekly volunteers run sports sessions in the village; drills, skills practise and games in football, rounders, rugby, volleyball, netball, cricket and any other sport which appeals. The recently developed Chintsa Sports Centre hosts these sessions with access to a football pitch, netball and volleyball courts.

Gardening Project

Monday afternoon is reserved for gardening! VA32 assist local learners and volunteers in helping to care for the plant and vegetable gardens at Chintsa East School and teach the children how to look after and harvest their plants, flowers and vegetables.

Children’s Home of Safety

Volunteers visit a local Children’s Home of Safety one afternoon a week where extra hands are desperately needed to help the fulltime staff in this under-staffed, under-resourced children’s home. Typical activities involve playing sports with the children, structured play, reading and helping children to complete their homework.
Transforming Learning Environments

VA32 has an on-going commitment to supporting the Chintsa community in achieving a higher level of education for the foundation phase children. Working closely with local non-profit organisation Friends of Chintsa to achieve these aims through completing building, upliftment and maintenance work on the preschool facilities as well as supporting teachers and volunteers in the development of the schools. To date, four local partner preschools are benefitting from this support, improvement in facilities and quality of resources available.

A bit more about Friends of Chintsa

VA32 and local non-profit organisation Friends of Chintsa work in partnership. The organisation manages any financial donations which are given to the VA32 projects, and channels them into initiatives which address current social and environmental issues in and around Chintsa.

VA32 volunteers help to support these initiatives through their involvement in programs such as the Wild Coast Schools and Community Preschools Project and can get further involved with on-going Friends initiatives during their time in Chintsa.

A few ways to get more involved!
- Join the UNSTRESSED Surf School at the weekend which is run by the local surf community and teaches local children the basics of surfing and ocean awareness
- Assist with the daily running of the Chintsa East Feeding Scheme during school hours
  - Be an active part of the regular sports development initiatives going on in Chintsa
Volunteer Life

Orientation

A pre-project familiarisation and orientation, will take place upon arrival in Chintsa. This will involve an introduction to the local area, volunteer routine and house as well as a familiarisation chat about life and what to expect in South Africa.

A project specific orientation is also provided before volunteers are placed in the pre-schools. It includes: a project overview, in depth introduction to VA32, introduction to the preschools and teachers, lesson & resource preparation and available resources.

Orientation is designed to help volunteers to settle into their new environment as quickly as possible and to understand where their energy and enthusiasm can be used best on project.

Accommodation

VA32 has a volunteer house in the small seaside village of Chintsa East. Volunteers will stay in shared accommodation (two or six per room) in the “vollie” house overlooking Chintsa beach & lagoon. The house is within a few minutes walk of the beach & volunteers will have access to canoes, boogie boards and beach accessories through local backpackers Buccaneers. Accommodation has most mod cons (including daily visits from the monkeys!) and is fully serviced and managed by our house manager Nomakwezi.
Meals

**Breakfasts** are **early and healthy**. Volunteers will have access to a self-help breakfast which will include fresh fruit, toast and jams, cereals, tea and coffee. Please note that yoghurt and fried breakfasts are not included.

**Lunch** is in the form a packed lunch which includes a **sandwich and a piece of fruit** prepared by house manager Nomakwezi. White and brown bread, cheese, tomato, lettuce, cucumber, jams and peanut butter are available as sandwich fillings.

**Dinners** are scrumptious, home cooked, sit down meals. These will be prepared by VA32 staff and we cater for vegetarians at all times. Volunteers also have the opportunity to enjoy traditional Xhosa foods at our once off Xhosa Dinner Party. Other theme menus include a Mexican evening as well as a truly South African weekly “braai” (BBQ).

**Important Note:** Participants must advise VA32 of their dietary needs (e.g. vegetarian, allergic to nuts etc.) upon bookings. Participants with very specific dietary needs may be required to supplement their meals at their own expense.

Chintsa

There are several small restaurants and bars in the village that do specials for volunteers. Thursday night is “fun night out” as all VA32 volunteers from the different projects usually meet up.

Local tour operator African Heartland Journeys (mother company to VA32) run surf schools, beach horse rides, game drives and quad biking which are all bookable through the VA32 office at a reduced rate for volunteers.

Local backpackers **Buccaneers** also welcomes volunteers to use their swimming pool, boogie boards, canoes, take part in their afternoon free activities and use their bar. A great place to meet like minded travellers and plan future adventures!

**The VA32 Office & Support Centre offers:**

- 24 hr personalised contact person
- Professional, full time VA facilitators for planning & mentoring
- Weekly feedback, troubleshooting and planning sessions with co-ordinating team
- Transport to and from projects
- Access to the VA32 internet café and telephone
Program Fees & Dates

We ask all volunteers to arrive on a Monday. The Community Preschool Project does not run during the school holidays — please see the attached date sheet for specific start dates.

The rates sheet is also attached or you can view the most up to date rates on the program webpage by clicking on the “Rates and Dates” tab at: www.volunteerafrica.co.za/volunteer-with-preschool-children.html

What’s included in the program fee?

- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure (Monday arrivals only)
- Accommodation in shared, serviced camps
- Three meals a day whilst on project
- All project related transport
- Support of our experienced on-site project co-ordinator
- Welcome pack with all project info, and meal and drink vouchers for local Chintsa restaurants and bars, 1 free hour internet upon arrival, free VA32 T-shirt

What’s not included?

- Flights
- Personal Insurance
- Snacks, drinks and meals outside of project
- Extra excursions and trips

The Booking Process

Contact us on info@volunteerafrica.co.za or +27 (0)43 738 5523. Our travel and bookings guru Karen will email an application form to you asap. This needs to be filled in and returned to us and upon receipt we will invoice you for a 35% deposit which is needed to confirm your placement on project. The remainder of the fee is due one month prior to arrival.

N.B., You need to inform us of your flight details so that we can arrange for one of the team to pick you up from East London airport.