



My first impression of Usakos? IT IS SO HOT THERE! The Sunday that Teresa and I arrived at Mariannes and Sakkies house was a very hot day. And that although we arrived in the rainy season. That's why I had a strong headache the first three days. YEAH, what a nice start!

The arrival was very calm. Marianne didn't give us too much information on the first evening. Only after a quick shower and a long dinner she informed us about the most important things to know in Namibia, about the center and the kids.

So the anticipation to get known to the children the next day was growing and growing.

That Monday, that I was waiting for the last months came and went by very fast. But it left a feeling. A feeling of getting a second home, caring meetings and a new challenge. And that feeling got concerned in the next 5 weeks (yees, only 5 weeks. Normally it should have been 6, but my last week is the first week of the Easter break of the children...).

The first week was kind of "getting known to everything" and this week went by very fast. By the end of the week Anne and Miriam arrived already and we could start dividing the children into groups for the study time. Marianne asked me to take the grade 1-3 because she thought, that I may have the patience for these naughty little beggars. Especially with these 8 kids I fell totally in love. The everyday trouble of the study time made us friends. Piet, who speaks only little English, Paulus, who was always complaining: "I cannot do that", Maneko, who was telling the others the solution of their worksheets instead of doing hers, Hendriena, who was telling me every day that she doesn't have homework, David, who likes Mathematics better than English, Shaun, who was always telling me that Piet is copying his solutions, Fabiola, who never liked her worksheets and Teresa, who rarely needed my help. The nine of us were a funny group. All of them sitting around me and asking me questions at the

same time. And me in the middle of them, trying to answer their questions as quick as possible, to move on with the next problem.



After the study time we had a lot of nice projects to do with the children. They should not only be fun but also educate them. That's why we started doing experiments with them, like a volcano out of baking powder and vinegar, a solar oven, an hot air balloon or our own cheese. We also did a day of planting, to learn the children how to care about something.

On the q.t. I got a new job – I became the hygiene woman of the center. The children came to me with wounds, little aches and pains and I started to treat them or dress their wounds. With Andreas, the oldest of the Centerkids, I shaved, washed and treated the heads of the boys to avoid infections and fungus. It is really fascinating how fast we all found our place and part in the Center. Each and everyone had his tasks and by the time the last two volunteers, Vincent and Leon, arrived, all of us felt at home and found his place.

Also with the family we had a lot of fun and laughed together. The highlight was a weekend trip to their farm. All six of us were standing on the back of the buggy while Sackey was driving us through the middle of nowhere. I have never seen so much untouched nature before. We experienced the farmlife here in Namibia and I fell totally in love with it. It was such a nice day that ended with a traditional braai. Thank you so much for this wonderful experience Marianne, Sackey and Imo!



The weeks went by fast and the Easter party took place. On this last day we had a lot of fun with the children. We played funny easter games and the kids had to search for their filled easter baskets. It was a wonderful last day until we had to accept that our time is over here. The kids sang for us and we had to say goodbye. It was such a sad moment but I will remember these kids and I learned a lot from them.

We had a wonderful time here and I want to thank MARIANNE, SACKEY and IMO for having us.