

E.A.R.S. — AI-Powered WhatsApp Teacher Training for Early Hearing-Loss Detection in South African Schools

AI in Education · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 87/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

University of Pretoria and the hearX Foundation's free AI WhatsApp chatbot trains teachers to spot childhood hearing loss; 12,000+ South African educators enrolled in month one, with 97% passing assessments, building on a peer-reviewed 2022 trial.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	1/3
Equity & inclusion	3/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	3/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	3/3
Scalability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[University of Pretoria \(WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss\) / hearX Foundation](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[University of Pretoria: WhatsApp AI teachers' training programme launched to detect early hearing loss](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[TimesLIVE: WhatsApp training to help teachers detect hearing loss](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[Daily Maverick: The AI WhatsApp bot spotting hearing loss in SA schools](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[IJERPH \(2022\): mHealth-Supported Hearing Health Training for Early Childhood Development Practitioners](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

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