



## DOING IT HER WAY

Entrepreneur Nthabiseng Sibanda is the founder of Puo Educational Products, a range of educational tools in African languages for children under nine

### **What made you start your own business?**

I found that when it came to supplementing our choice of home language with vibrant, relevant toys, I was hard-pressed to find anything. So I started Puo Educational Products, which seeks to make children take pride in their culture by teaching them their mother tongues.

### **How do you balance running a business with caring for your children?**

My management consultant background helps a great deal. However, having children means I have to be flexible. I have a great partnership with my husband, who's very hands-on with them, and we also rely on our nanny, who's great with kids.

### **What advice are you able to give other working mothers?**

If anyone needs to compromise on their time, let it be you. You can always catch up [on other tasks] while your children are asleep or at school. However, if you're really pressed for time, explain to your children that you need to work and promise to take part in a game or activity afterwards.

### **What's your power principle?**

A West African proverb: "You may be disappointed if you fail, but you're doomed if you don't try."

\* For further information on Puo Educational Products, visit: [www.puo.co.za](http://www.puo.co.za). **D**