



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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A CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FROM 24, 25 AND 26 JANUARY 2012, IN EAST LONDON, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

1. INTRODUCTION

Early Childhood Development (ECD) has been identified as an APEX priority and is a central component within government's twelve Outcomes. It is one of the areas reflected under Outcome 1: Improved Quality of Basic Education.

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini has identified ECD as one of her priority programmes and as such the Department of Social Development has launched an awareness campaign to promote ECD in local communities. The Department of Social Development will also be hosting a multi stakeholder conference on ECD as part of this campaign.

2. AIM

The aim of the conference is to take stock of progress made on Early Childhood Development (ECD) delivery in South Africa and to promote provisioning of quality ECD services for children from birth to school going age.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Conference for ECD will be the following:

- To provide a platform for Policy Makers, Donors, Development Agencies, Faith Based Organization, Civil Society Organisations and Government Departments to share lessons and experiences in the field of ECD.
- To promote the coordination of government, Non-Governmental Organisations and private sector efforts towards implementing the National Integrated Plan for ECD.
- To strengthen mechanisms for implementing cost-effective interventions to empower ECD practitioners.
- To share and promote current good practices in the field of ECD.
- To review progress with respect to the implementation of the National Integrated Plan for ECD (Identify successes and lessons learned).
- To discuss available research and information on ECD.
- To discuss participatory/action research and programmes done by ECD practitioners with special focus on rural development and the implementation of ECD programmes/services.

4. OUTCOMES

- Improved knowledge on ECD programmes and services.
- Shared experiences by all stakeholders including the experiences of ECD practitioners.
- Improved understanding of ECD service delivery within the rural environment.
- Shared vision for the future of ECD in South Africa.
- A report that will inform government and the sector as a whole on the state of ECD and recommendations for consideration for future policies and programmes

5. PARTNERSHIPS

The stakeholders involved in the ECD Conference will be the following:

- Department of Social Development
- Department of Basic Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Women, Children and People with Disability
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Rural Development
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Department of Correctional Services
- Department of Sport and Recreation
- National Treasury
- South African Social Security Agency
- National Development Agency
- UNICEF
- World Bank
- Save the children
- Faith Based Organisations
- Community Based Organisations
- Non-Governmental Organisations (including women's organisations)
- ECD NGOs Sector.
- Children's Institute
- Human Science Research Council
- ECD Donors

6. THEME FOR THE CONFERENCE: BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

6.1 SUB-THEME 1: DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- ECD Policy Review.
- Scaling up of ECD.
- Curriculum on ECD.
- Position paper on ECD.
- Facts and figures about ECD and their implications.
- Registration of ECD and Partial Care facilities (Requirements of the Children's Act, Compliance to norms and standards).
- Legal obligations of Municipalities.
- Assignment of functions to Municipalities in respect of ECD.

6.2 SUB-THEME 2: RESOURCING MECHANISMS

- Funding models.
- Resourcing models for Partial Care.
- Resourcing models for ECD programmes.
- Human Resources: Salaries of ECD practitioners/staff.
- Innovative financing models.
- ECD Finance Tracking.

6.3 SUB-THEME 3: COLLABORATIONS, NETWORKS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Training of ECD practitioner's, achievements and challenges.
- Qualifications of ECD practitioners.
- Training Curriculum models.

- Inter Departmental / Inter- sectoral Partnership Models.
- Parenting for young children's holistic development.

6.4 SUB-THEME 4: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS, PROGRAMMES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Home Community Based ECD Models
- Stimulation models for children with disabilities
- Integrated ECD Approaches -Best practice
- Partial Care models/categories and its implementation
- Innovative programmes: Utilisation of printed and electronic communication resources to improve the quality of ECD programmes/services
- Non Centre Based ECD Programmes-Best Practice
- ECD Centres as Nodes of Care and Support
- Infrastructural development for ECD and partial care facilities
- Programmes for the transfer of cultural values and intergenerational knowledge and practices (story telling)
- Sports and recreation programmes, activities and. Facilities for ECD and partial care

6.5 SUB-THEME 5: DISABILITIES HEALTH AND PROTECTION IN ECD

- Understanding Disabilities in the context of ECD.
- Disability programmes and interventions.
- Impact of neglect in ECD.
- Using clinics as centres of integrated services for the young.
- ECD and Child Protection strategies.
- Effects of PMTCT programmes.

- Health policies and programmes for young children.
- Protection and violations in ECD programmes.

6.6 PROVINCIAL CLINICS

- Improving ECD for practitioners.
- Practical demonstrations of programmes to improve quality of ECD services.
- Platforms for practitioners voices, viewpoint and to show case how to make learning and stimulation material.

The Department of Social Development is calling for papers from all stakeholders, academics as well as ECD practitioners in the field. The programme will also have provincial clinics which will have practical demonstrations. A special call goes out for women who are providing ECD programmes/services in rural areas to share their experiences. Abstracts should reach the Department by **18 November 2011**, and it should not exceed two pages (in aerial and 1.5 spacing).

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries must be directed to:

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