

**A PROJECT PLAN FOR MEETING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN
AT TEN (10) EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES
IN WALLACEDENE**

**A PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED
TO THE STICHTING MZAMOMHLE AND STICHTING PROJECTEN ZUID-AFRIKA FOR THE
YEAR 01 APRIL 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014**



The Centre for Early Childhood Development
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28 March 2013

Executive Summary

Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD) has put together a proposal for meeting the needs of young children at ten (10) early childhood development (ECD) centres in Wallacedene in the Western Cape province. This proposal makes provision for a full range of ECD services and sets out our strategy based on experience developed so far with community-run ECD centres. The ECD programme will cover:

1. Early childhood development skills training for teachers (including mentoring and on-site support to the teachers at the centres);
2. Assistance with registration with the provincial Department of Social Development; and
3. Educational equipment provision and training.

On this project we will work closely with the Western Cape provincial Departments of Social Development and Education.

This project is for one (1) year starting on 01 April 2013 and ending on 31 March 2014 and will cost a total of R387 500. Stichting Mzamomhle have committed to contributing R100 000 towards the project; and Stichting Projecten Zuid-Afrika have provided R100 000 for educational equipment. The Centre for Early Childhood Development has assured funding of R187 500.

Background to the Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD)

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The Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD) is a national resource that provides training, support and advice in the field of early childhood development. The focus of our work is on improving the education and care for children from disadvantaged communities by improving the early childhood development (ECD) services in South Africa.

We believe that young children must be put first in society. Our mission is to increase the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities in delivering early childhood development services. This is pursued through a range of programmes, projects and services. We work with: **communities**, providing technical assistance to early childhood development projects; **organisations**, enhancing organisational efficiency and effectiveness; **individuals**, developing skills and increasing their capacity; and **parents**, providing information on the development of children.

The Centre for Early Childhood Development was established in 1994 and is a Non-Profit Company registered in terms of the Companies Act (Registration number 1994/005082/08). We are also a registered non-profit organisation (006-173 NPO). CECD is registered as a public benefit organisation (PBO number 930001898) with the South African Revenue Service. CECD is therefore exempt from income tax in terms of Section 10(1)(cN) of the Income Tax Act, and donations to the organisation are tax deductible in terms of, and subject to, the limitations prescribed in Section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act. CECD has B-BBEE verification at Level 1, the highest possible B-BBEE attainment.

CECD is accredited as an Early Childhood Development (ECD) training provider by the ETDP-SETA (Accreditation number ETDP-0155).

Introduction

Many young children in South Africa grow up in circumstances of extreme poverty. This is the case both in urban settlements and in rural areas. This poverty has many consequences; the most immediate being illness, stunted growth, lagging cognitive development, poor nutrition and general lethargy. These children enter primary school at Grade 1 poorly prepared for schooling and as a result they fail and drop out of the education system never to return. The effect is seen at matric level where only 33.6% of all children starting Grade 1 make it through 12 years of schooling.

In South Africa, there are some 6.5 million children aged from birth to six years old, yet only 20% of them are in any form of ECD provision. Some 5.2 million children do not get a structured early learning programme prior to entering the first year of formal school. These are the most vulnerable children in our communities.

One way of overcoming these effects of poverty is to provide good quality early childhood development (ECD) programmes for young children with support to their families. Research in South Africa, and internationally, indicates that the early years are critical for development. The research shows that quality early childhood development learning and care leads to higher levels of physical, cognitive and emotional well-being and better rates of lifetime learning and productivity. The early years have been recognised as the ideal phase for the passing of values that are important for the building of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic society. Early and appropriate provisioning and interventions for children at risk can often reverse the effects of deprivation and make it possible for children to grow and develop to their full potential, thus reducing the need for remedial services to address the developmental lag and social problems later in life.

Children who attend a quality preschool programme:

- perform better at formal school;
- are less likely to get involved in crime and drugs;
- are more likely to be employed;
- are less likely to need costly remedial education;
- and for girls, are less likely to become pregnant whilst a teenager.

As a country, South Africa needs a much greater investment in education at the level that produces the greatest social and economic return - the early years – and reaps the benefits all the way through the education system.

Project Proposal

Project aim

This project will provide a range of services at ten (10) community-managed early childhood development centres in Wallacedene, an area which is characterised by poverty.

These services include:

- Developing the skills of twenty (20) untrained teachers working in these ECD centres including on-site support to the teachers;
- Providing educational equipment to ten (10) ECD centres; and
- Assisting these centres with accessing the provincial Department of Social Development ECD subsidy.

These services are detailed below.

1) ECD Teacher Skills Training

This programme is presented in the form of a series of workshops that focus on enriching the knowledge and building the capacity of twenty (20) ECD teachers. There are 10 workshops with a duration of 3 hours each. Each workshop will cover a different topic and will be facilitated by competent trainers.

The workshop topics are as follows:

1. Numeracy
2. Literacy
3. Life Skills
4. Planning Daily Programmes
5. Outdoor Play
6. Creative Play with Story-telling and Music
7. Art
8. Discipline
9. First Aid and Road Safety
10. Training on the Effective Use of Equipment

At each workshop, participants will cover theory on the skills that they will learn, designs for making their own educational equipment, as well as any other information relating to the relevant topic that will be useful to them. By the end of the programme, the teachers will have substantial resources that they can make use of and share with other teachers in their ECD centres. All resources and stationery required by the teachers at each workshop will be provided.

After the ECD workshops all teachers will receive on-site support visits by CECD fieldworkers to ensure the implementation of the skills acquired at the selected ECD centres. Fieldworkers will conduct one on-site support visit to each school after every two workshops.

The teachers on this programme will acquire the relevant skills, knowledge and experience to work with young children effectively.

2) Provision of Educational Equipment

Each ECD centre participating on this project will receive a resource kit of age-appropriate educational equipment. Educational equipment is a vital component in offering a quality early learning environment to young children. By working with educational equipment children acquire essential developmental skills, such as fine and gross motor skills. Play serves as a means for the growth of the child's physical, social, cognitive, emotional, social and moral development.

Equipment audits will be done as a means to establish the equipment needed at each centre. Equipment will be sourced and distributed to the ECD centres. This programme will be supplemented with training for ECD teachers on the effective use of educational equipment.

These resource kits will also act as an incentive to encourage teachers to attend and participate in workshops.

3) **Assisting ECD centres to obtain the provincial government subsidy**

One of the major barriers preventing young children from accessing quality ECD centres is the cost. When ECD centres receive the provincial Department of Social Development subsidy, of R 15,00 per child per day, centres are able to improve the quality for many young children. Receiving the government subsidy will help ECD centres to become financially sustainable. CECD assists ECD centres to obtain this subsidy.

For example, an ECD centre with forty (40) children can access about R150,000 each year. In order to get the selected ECD centres registered and subsidised, fieldworkers will:

- Obtain inspection reports from the Environmental Health Practitioners,
- Assess reports and follow-up on recommendations in consultation with ECD Coordinators (Department of Social Development) and Governing Body members of the ECD centres;
- Support the ECD centres to meet the minimum requirements for registration as a partial care facility.

Project implementation plan

The project would be implemented from 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 as follows:

Phase 1: Start up (April 2013)

- Needs assessment: Initial identification of ECD centres and teachers for training
- ECD project launch

Phase 2: Programme Implementation and Support (May 2013 – March 2014)

- Selection and ordering of equipment for the ECD centres
- Establish education programme at each ECD centre
- Implement 10 ECD teacher workshops and 5 on-site support visits to each ECD
- Provide educational equipment to 10 ECD centres
- Implement 3 on-site support visits to each ECD centre to assist with the application for registration with the provincial Department of Social Development and ECD subsidy.

Please see Appendix 1 for a more detailed Implementation Plan.

Project Beneficiaries

This project redresses the effects of poverty by providing access to quality early childhood development services.

Specifically, the project will benefit:

- Children who need increased opportunities to quality learning programmes;
- Skills for women and men who are teachers and caregivers at the ECD centres;
- Families and parents who request early childhood development services to meet their needs;
- Community-based ECD teachers in the sector whose work is largely unrecognised.

Project Impact

The impact of this project in year one will be:

Project activities	Direct project beneficiaries	Number of direct beneficiaries to be reached
ECD Teacher Skills Training	ECD Teachers	20 ECD Teachers
Educational Equipment	ECD Children	400 Children
On-Site Support and Assistance with Registration	ECD Centres	10 ECD Centres

Programme Budget (01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014)

The total cost of this comprehensive and integrated project is R387 500.

Stichting Mzamomhle have committed to contributing R100 000 towards the project; and Stichting Projecten Zuid-Afrika have provided R100 000 for educational equipment. The Centre for Early Childhood Development has assured funding of R187 500.

PROGRAMME COSTS	Year 1
TRAINING AND FIELDWORK	
Project Manager	195 000
Trainer/Fieldworker: ECD Teacher Training x 2	32 400
EQUIPMENT PROVISION	
Education Equipment x 10 ECD centres	100 000
MATERIALS AND RESOURCES	
ECD Teachers (20 packs) - ECD Skills Development Workshops	4 000
TRAINERS/FIELDWORKERS TRAVEL TO TRAINING	
ECD Teachers (20) 10 training sessions	1 700
SUPPORT AND MENTORING VISITS FOR TRAINING AND FOR ASSISTANCE WITH REGISTRATION AND SUBSIDIES	
ECD Teachers (20) 5 visits to each ECD centre per year for assistance with learning programme	10 000
ECD Centre Principals (10) x 3 visits per year to assist with registration and subsidies	6 000
TRAINING RESOURCES	
Venue Hire for Training	2 000
Catering for ECD workshops - 20 teachers @ R25 pppd for 10 days	6 000
TRAVEL BURSARIES FOR TEACHERS TO ATTEND TRAINING	
Travel Bursaries for 20 teachers x 10 workshops	14 400
OVERHEADS	16 000
TOTAL	387 500

Conclusion

As we continue to develop our nation, it is important that we invest in the education and care of our youngest children and their families. The Centre for Early Childhood Development is a fully equipped organisation with skilled staff and provincial partners who are committed to the development and care of children in South Africa. With the support of the Mzamomhle Foundation, the proposed project will make a major contribution to early childhood development in our country.

APPENDIX 1: Detailed Implementation Plan

01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014

MONTH	ACTIVITY
April 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline Assessment of the ECD centres • Project Launch
May 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Numeracy</i> • Selection and ordering of educational equipment • 1 on-site support visit for to each ECD centre
June 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Literacy</i> • 1 support visit to each ECD centre Principal for assistance with registration and subsidy
July 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Life Skills</i> • 1 on-site support visit to each ECD centre
August 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Planning the daily programme</i>
September 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Effective use of equipment</i>
October 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Outdoor Play</i> • 1 on-site support visit to each ECD centre
November 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Creative Play</i> • 1 support visit to each ECD centre Principal for assistance with registration and subsidy
December 2013:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Art</i>
January 2014:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: Discipline</i> • 1 on-site support visit to each ECD centre
February 2014:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECD workshop: First Aid and Road Safety</i> • 1 support visit to each ECD centre Principal for assistance with registration and subsidy
March 2014:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 on-site support visit to each ECD centre