



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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EXTERNAL MEMO

TO: GAUTENG ECD ORGANISATIONS
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ECD NETWORKS
ECD TRAINING PROVIDERS
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CC: DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL – CMD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL – DSD
ECD DIRECTORS – GDE AND GDSD

FROM: MR EDWARD MOSUWE
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ECD CENSUS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN
EARLY YEARS INDEX

Dear Colleagues,

The above subject has reference.

1. In preparing for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) function shift, the National Department of Basic Education (DBE) is planning to conduct two data collection projects in order to provide the Department with the required information for planning towards expanding access to early learning opportunities for all children in South Africa. The two first project is on the ECD Census and the second project is on the South African Early Years Index.
2. ECD Census:
 - 2.1. The purpose of the ECD Census is to gather basic information on all ECD programmes in South Africa in order to help the government plan effectively for ECD services in the future.

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- 2.2. Fieldworkers will be visiting all ECD programmes in the province (both registered and unregistered) so that the DBE can understand the scope of ECD provisioning.
 - 2.3. The information collected through the Census will assist the DBE in creating a master list of the ECD programmes that will feed into the first national Information Management System for ECD in the country.
3. The South African Early Years Index and Baseline Assessment
 - 3.1. The second project, which is the South African Early Years Index and Baseline Assessment, will entail fieldworkers visiting a nationally representative sample of ECD programmes to assess the developmental outcomes of 4 and 5-year old children to enable the Department to report on the Sustainable Goal Indicator 4.2.1 (Percentage of children who are developmentally on track).
 - 3.2. The Early Years Index will further provide the DBE with a more in-depth understanding of the context in which ECD programmes operates.
4. All data collected through these exercises will be shared with provinces to enable them to conduct the planning necessary to expand opportunities to quality early learning.
5. The dates for these data collection exercises in the provinces are as follows:
 - 5.1. The ECD Census is set to start on **23 August 2021** and run through to **December 2021**; and
 - 5.2. Data collection for the South African Early Years Index is set to start on **30 August 2021** and will run through to the end of **September 2021**.

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6. The GDE would like to request your support in ensuring that the relevant stakeholders and the ECD centres in your areas are aware of these projects and allow access to the fieldworkers for the projects.

Yours sincerely



MR. EDWARD MOSUWE
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT *(initials)*

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