



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear ECD Coordinators,

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL ECD CENSUS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN EARLY YEARS INDEX

In preparing for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) function shift, the National Department of Basic Education (DBE) is planning to conduct two data collection exercises to provide the Department with the required information for planning towards expanding access to early learning opportunities for all children in South Africa. The first project is the ECD Census and the second is the South African Early Years Index.

The purpose of the 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. The project will entail fieldworkers visiting all ECD programmes in the country (both registered and unregistered) so that the DBE can understand the scope of ECD provisioning. The information collected through the Census will assist the DBE in creating a masterlist of ECD programmes that will feed into the first national Information Management System for ECD in the country.

The South African Early Years Index and Baseline Assessment will entail 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 Development Goal Indicator 4.2.1 (Percentage of children who are developmentally on track). It will further provide the DBE with a more in-depth understanding of the context in which ECD programmes operates.

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. The preparation for both projects have now been concluded and I would like to inform you of the dates for these data collection exercises in your province:

- The ECD Census is set to start on 23 August 2021 and run through to December 2021.
- Data collection for the South African Early Years Index is set to start on 30 August and will run through to the end of September.



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The Census will be conducted in all ECD Programmes in your province, whereas the South African Early Years Index will only be conducted in a sample of roughly 100 ECD programmes. The data collection team will be contacting ECD programmes directly to arrange a time and date for their visits, and the fieldworkers will carry a letter from the Department with them to indicate that they have been commissioned to collect the information. The Department will also abide strictly by all Protection of Personal Information regulations.

The Department would like to request your support in ensuring that the relevant stakeholders in your province are aware of these projects which are being run jointly between the units responsible for ECD (led by Ms K Manona, Chief Director: Foundations for Learning) supported by the unit responsible for Monitoring (led by Ms C Nuga Deliwe)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Nuga Deliwe'.

MS C NUGA-DELIWE
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE
DATE: 23 JULY 2021