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Enquires: Dr J Kotzé  
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Dear Principal

## **OFFICIAL SOUTH AFRICAN ECD RESEARCH**

Your programme has been selected to participate in an official South African ECD research study on behalf of the Department of Basic Education (DBE), in collaboration with the Department of Social Development (DSD). This letter provides you with information about the research. It also serves to introduce you to ikapadata, the company that is going to be doing the data collection for DBE.

The data being collected will be used to help the DBE to:

- understand the different types of care and early learning services being offered at ECD programmes
- measure the proportion of 4-5 year old children in South Africa who are at the appropriate development level for their age

By having this data, the DBE will be in a better position to offer relevant support to the ECD sector. The data will also be used to help create South Africa's first Early Years Index. The aim of the Index is to shine a light on how important it is that children are properly equipped to start school at the appropriate level of development. It also aims to help the government, the private sector, civil society and the public to understand what they can do to increase the number of children who start school ready to thrive.

We therefore request that you provide ikapadata with access to your early learning programme for the following data collection activities:

- in July / August 2021:  
a member of the ikapadata team will visit your programme and conduct an interview with you (the principal). She/he will also provide you with consent forms to give to caregivers to sign and return. If caregivers do not return the form, we will assume that they have no objections to their child(ren) being assessed.
- in September / October 2021:  
one or two members of the ikapadata team will visit your programme for one day to conduct a direct assessment of four children and interview the children's practitioners. They may also conduct a quality assessment of your programme. The quality assessment will entail an interview with yourself, the Principal, interviews with practitioners, observations of some lessons, and a check of the facility.

All ikapadata team members will ensure that they are compliant with Covid-19 regulations.

We are grateful for your collaboration and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS C NUGA-DELIWE', written in a cursive style.

**MS C NUGA-DELIWE**  
**ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE**  
**DATE: 1 JULY 2021**