Quality in Child Care Practice: A South African Perspective

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INTRODUCTION

An example of Quality ECD Practice: Performance by children from Nancy McDowell Creche, an ECD site benefited from our training.
THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF EARLY LEARNING

The early years of childhood form the basis of intelligence, personality, social behaviour, and ability to learn and nurture oneself as an adult.

There is consistent and strong evidence which shows that:

- Brain development is most rapid in the early years of life.
- The effects of early disadvantage on children can be reduced.
- Children who receive assistance in their early years achieve more success at school.
- Efforts to improve early childhood development are an investment, not a cost.
IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY IN ECD DELIVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Quality ECD services as a universal right and a key component of the country’s National Development Plan.
- The provision of a comprehensive package of quality services that includes health care and nutrition, child protection, parenting support, and learning and care; from the prenatal period to age five.
- ECD programs with high level of quality, staffed by skilled personnel, and are responsive to the diverse needs of the young children and families they serve.
Universal Access to ECD Services means

- Excellence
- Access
- Equity
- Diversity
- Accountability
- Community-driven provision
HOW EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AFFECT QUALITY LIFE IN ADULTHOOD

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men” Frederick Douglass

- Early intervention can prevent the consequences of early adversity.
- Later interventions are likely to be less successful – and in some cases are ineffective.
- Interventions should consider the holistic nature of Early Childhood Development.
- Early interventions increase children's readiness for school and their performance later.
HOW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS INSTRUMENTAL IN JOB CREATION

- Early Childhood Development provides employment opportunities for many in South Africa.
- Government finally recognises and supports ECD Practitioners.
- ECD affords an opportunity to make a positive contribution to our children's progress.
- ECD uplifts the socioeconomic status and impact on their livelihood.
- ECD Sector is gradually being professionalised through Education, Training and Development.
- Lifelong learning is promoted.
HOW DISJOINTED AND FRAGMENTED APPROACHES AFFECT QUALITY ECD DELIVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA

- There is a lack of social cohesion - barriers and extensive differences due to unequal access to economic benefits, amenities and resources.
- Poverty - the biggest challenge to ECD.
- No national advocacy.
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation.
- Intersectoral service delivery mechanisms not in place.
- ECD financing has improved but still inadequate.
- Policy contradictions and inconsistencies in various Municipal Bylaws. For instance, what happens in a particular province does not happen in another particular province and yet we are under one democratic government but federal in approach.
INTRODUCING BRIDGE

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoPs) IN CONNECTING THE DOTS AND PROVIDING A BRIDGE IN FOSTERING COLLABORATION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION & ECD DELIVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA

- established in 2009 to share, adopt and implement what works
- BRIDGE’s intervention harness the idea of collaboration
- Bridge’s mission is to link people and share working practice and knowledge in key leverage areas in the education system
- Bridge uses a knowledge hub to disseminate working practice, tools and resources
BRIDGE ECD Community of Practice

AIM: to promote co-ordination in the sector and assist government’s goal of implementing ECD strategies and policies in a systematic way, through collaboration with civil society and informed by real issues on the ground.

Multi-stakeholder membership, all-inclusive, quarterly CoP meetings (National & Western Cape).

ACTIVITIES:
- Share working practice, tools & resources
- ECD Policy & Qualification engagement
- Mapping
- ECD Quality Toolkit- help the sector understand “What is quality ECD provision in practice?”
For more information

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Thank You!

Happy Kids Valley performing during Motheo Training Institute Trust Graduation Ceremony