



ECD QUALITY TOOLKIT PILOT PROJECT
Call for Expressions of Interest: Pilot Participant

Dear ECD Community of Practice member

As an ECD CoP member, you have been involved in the development of the ECD Quality Toolkit. As presented at the last CoP meeting (11-08-2015) we are now at the stage where we want to plan for piloting the Reflection Tool and its supporting processes early next year.

If you missed or want to review either of the more recent presentations on the ECD Quality Toolkit, please go [here](#) and [here](#).

This document is a **call for expressions of interest by individuals or organisations** who would be prepared to take part in the ECD Quality Toolkit Pilot. In order for you to discuss participation within your organisation, we outline the scope and nature of the pilot, and the implications of participation.

Purpose of the ECD Quality Reflection Toolkit

The purpose of the Toolkit is to help practitioners (including care-givers, trainers and other stakeholders) consider quality in ECD in terms of:

- How quality is made up of different aspects;
- How these aspects look different in different contexts; and
- How thinking about quality can support good practices.

This process is aimed at helping the sector answer the question **“What is quality ECD provision in practice?”**

The Toolkit was designed as a developmental, self-improvement tool aimed at empowering practitioners by giving them an opportunity to honestly consider their own areas of strengths and weakness, linked to understanding how these areas relate to ideas of quality practice and provision. Its aim is to help grow understanding from the ground up of what quality in ECD means.

Purpose of the Pilot

The Quality Toolkit is now at the stage where it needs to be tested. In Stage 1 the ECD practitioner as ‘teacher’ is prioritised. To this end the following purposes for the pilot process have been defined

1. **To refine/ adapt the reflection tool** – to test whether the questions encourage practitioners/teachers:
 - to reflect on own practice
 - to estimate own areas of strengths and weakness
 - to identify potential areas for of change.
2. **To test the methodology of self-reflection in the ECD sector**
3. **To refine the process & implementation guidelines**
4. **To identify information and other resources which practitioners find difficult to access.**

Pilot Plan Overview

The ECD Quality Toolkit Action Group is in the process of refining the steps and outputs required for implementation of the pilot. A brief overview is given below.

Site types	Pilot scope	Process TBC once sites identified
Registered - ECD centre, playgroups, home-based, community centres, farm-based Non-registered: ECD centre, playgroups, home-based, community centres, farm-based Community owned (impoverished or trust)/ privately owned/ municipality Informal settlements by definition not registered : all types	5 provinces: W Cape/ KZN / Limpopo OR N West/ Gauteng / E Cape From each province: 2 mediators for 3 sites [1 informal settlement, 1 community site, 1 home based – 1 at least well-resourced and 1 at least under-resourced; 1 rural and 1 town: age band 2 years to 5/6 years]	Each site visit – half a day depending on numbers and sites. Mediators to be given a 1 day training workshop on process and instruments before site visits.

CoP Member Participation

The Toolkit has been developed by the CoP and needs to be implemented by CoP members.

Participation in the pilot implies:

- Identification of sites with which your organisation has a relationship
- Facilitating agreement for visits by mediators to these sites
- Identification of mediators (CoP members or organisation staff members)
- Attendance at a Pilot Planning meeting in November 2015
- Release of mediators during the early part of 2016 to attend:
 - 1 training workshop
 - 3 site visits to 3 centres
 - Collating and submitting reports in templates provided
 - 1 feedback workshop.

BRIDGE is in the process of negotiating funding to cover transport costs, project management and data management for the pilot. However, the time of the mediators and the tasks outlined above will be the contribution of CoP members and their organisations.

Please could those interested complete the preliminary questionnaire below.

We believe that this pilot has great potential to lead to a refined and useful tool that can be widely distributed in the sector. There are also opportunities for subsequent phases which will engage with other stakeholder groups, and for the development of other delivery and implementation mechanisms. We look forward to working with you to make this pilot a success!

If you are interested in being part of the ECD Quality Toolkit Pilot, please click on the following link to complete a Google Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lvptAU7AOLLSRS4XYyYd4afu6OdxRzaxS5j8LnIEJSY/viewform?usp=send_form

Please complete the form **by 11 September 2015**.

Kind regards,

Kaley Le Mottée

(BRIDGE ECD CoP Project Manager)