



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Educators.

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PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- **To enable you to understand the rationale for the MRTEQ-ECD.**
- **To highlight the qualifications that will increasingly become available for professionals in the ECD sector**
- **To illustrate how the set of qualifications form a coherent qualifications pathway.**
- **To show how existing and historical qualifications articulate with the new qualifications**

The Role of DHET in Teacher Education

- Strengthen the capacity and capability of the **teacher education system** to produce and develop sufficient teachers to meet the needs of all education sub-sectors.
- Strengthen the capability of the **teacher education system** through ongoing policy development, support for policy implementation and monitoring.

DHET MANDATE

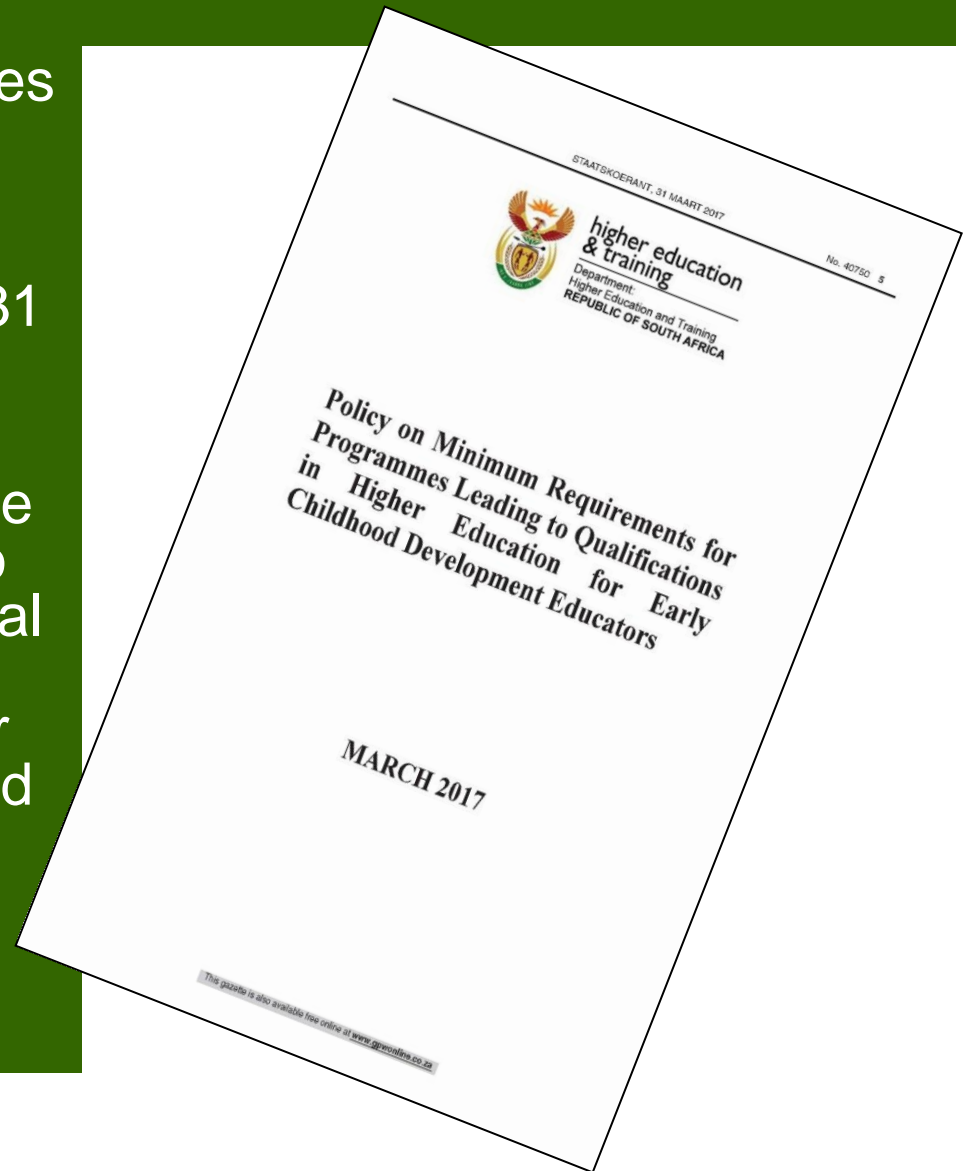
- **Planning and support for Further and Higher Education and Training related to ECD**
- **Oversight of Quality and Accreditation of Training of ECD practitioners**

NIECD Policy (2015)

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Development Educators was gazetted on 31 March 2017

1. The policy marks the first time in the history of ECD (birth to 4) in South Africa that a formal set of professional and post-professional qualifications for birth to 4 has been formulated as national policy.



It's about **TRANSFORMATION**

- The policy has at its **centre** the transformation of the education and training of early childhood development practitioners and educators.
- This also gives effect to the provisions of the ***National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy***.
- This policy is an important **catalyst** to accelerate the professionalization of the early childhood development workforce in the country.

We are changing gear




THE POLICY

requires a transformation in the qualification landscape for early childhood development practitioners and educators in South Africa.

It's about **QUALITY** in **ECD**

- The quality of training and education of early childhood development practitioners and educators impacts on the **QUALITY** of early learning and development programmes.
- This gives effect to the **National Development Plan** vision for quality early childhood development in the country as to fulfil the government of South Africa's ethical and legal obligation towards babies and young children.

THE POLICY



emphasizes the centrality of quality. If we compromise the quality of training and the professionalization of the early childhood development workforce, we compromise the rights of children to have access to quality early learning and development programmes.

WHAT DOES THE POLICY DO?

- **Puts in place a set of Higher Education Qualification for ECD educators who are delivering or assisting in delivering ECD programmes.**
- **Describes a knowledge mix that is appropriate for the programmes leading to the different ECD qualifications aligned to the purpose of the programme and qualification.**

WHAT DOES THE POLICY DO?

- **Sets minimum credit values for learning programmes leading to qualifications in terms of the knowledge mix and different levels.**
- **Describes minimum admission requirements for entry into the selected qualification**
- **Describes how the new qualifications articulate with historical and current qualifications.**

WHAT DOES THE POLICY DO?

- **Outlines conditions for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

Access

Advanced Standing

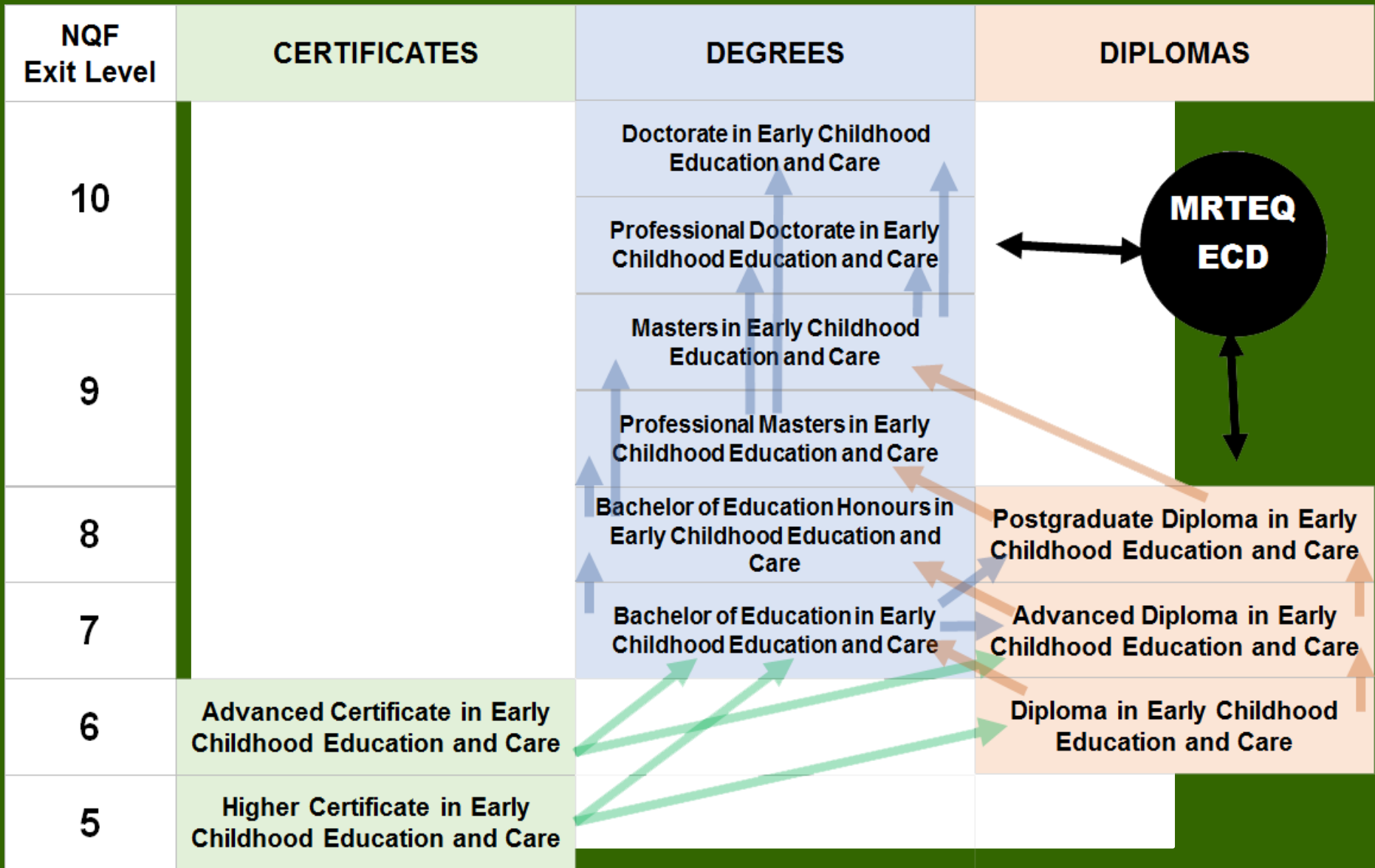
- **Outlines conditions for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)**

- **Describes how the requirements for Work Integrated Learning (WIL)**

PROFESSIONALISATION

MRTEQ-ECD provides a basis for the construction of core curricula for programmes leading to initial professional and post- professional qualifications for early childhood development educators.

Qualifications Sub-Framework



ENTRY LEVEL QUALIFICATION

**HCert (ECCE)
120 C
NQF Level 5**

A National Senior Certificate (NSC), or a Level 4 National Certificate (Vocational), or an appropriate Level 4 Certificate in ECD.

This qualification is ideally suited to students who want to embark on a career in ECD, but need a supported route in order to access higher education qualifications. Graduates who successfully complete the HCert (ECCE), and who want to become professionally qualified, must do the Diploma in ECCE or the Bachelor of Education in ECCE.

INITIAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

**Dip (ECCE)
360C
NQF Level 6**

A NSC or a Level 4 NCV with a diploma entry endorsement or equivalent. A Level 4 Occupational Certificate in ECD can also be considered for admission, and a Level 5 certificate or diploma can be considered for admission and assessment for advanced credit standing.

This qualification is ideally suited to practitioners working in ECD centre-based or non-centre based settings who are unqualified or would like to improve their existing ECD qualifications to deepen their knowledge and practice of Early Childhood Education and Care.

**B.Ed (ECCE)
480
NQF Level 7**

The minimum entry requirement is an NSC or a Level 4 NCV with endorsement for entry into Bachelor studies, or equivalent. Level 4 or 5 vocational, occupational and academic qualifications, including a certificate or diploma in ECD/Educare, or other relevant qualifications offered by TVET colleges, can be considered for admission to a BEd degree.

This qualification is ideally suited to those who want to obtain a higher education qualification in ECCE which will enable them to embark on a career in education as professional educators who facilitate learning for babies, toddlers and young children from birth to four years.

POST-PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

**AdvCert
(ECCE)
120C
NQF Level 6**

A recognised professional teaching qualification is required for entry into the AdvCert (ECCE).

ECD educators who have qualified to teach in other education sub-sectors (e.g. schooling) who wish to retrain as ECD educators, should apply for admission to this qualification, e.g. FP teachers who want to specialise in ECD birth to 4.

POST-PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

**AdvDip
(ECCE)
120C
NQF Level 7**

A B.Ed. (ECCE), an AdvCert (ECCE), a Dip (ECCE) or the National N Diploma (Educare) can be presented for admission to an AdvDip (ECCE).

This qualification is ideally suited to practitioners and educators who already hold an ECD qualification at level 6, but want to specialise in a specific area in ECD, e.g. Inclusive Ed. or Leadership and Management

**PGDip
(ECCE)
120C
NQF Level 8**

The minimum admission requirement is an approved and recognised Level 7 qualification in ECD, which follows appropriate cognate qualifications at lower levels, comprising at least a total of 480 credits, for example, a 360C Level 6 Dip (ECCE), followed by a 120C Level 7 AdvDip (ECCE) or a 480C Level 7 BEd (ECCE).

This qualification is ideally suited for professionally qualified educators who wish to further specialise in ECD in order to deepen their knowledge of the field. The PGDip (ECCE) would enable graduates to access postgraduate degrees in ECD.

POST-GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS

**BEd Hons, MEd
DEd (ECCE)
NQF Level 8-10**

**May be offered in accordance
with the requirements for
postgraduate degrees as
described in the HEQSF**

**The HEQSF makes provision for Level 8 – 10
qualifications to either have a strong professional
focus or a strong academic focus**

WHEN WILL THESE QUALIFICATIONS BE AVAILABLE?

As from the 2020 academic year, the BEd (ECCE) and the Dip (ECCE) will be offered as higher education qualifications in ECD.

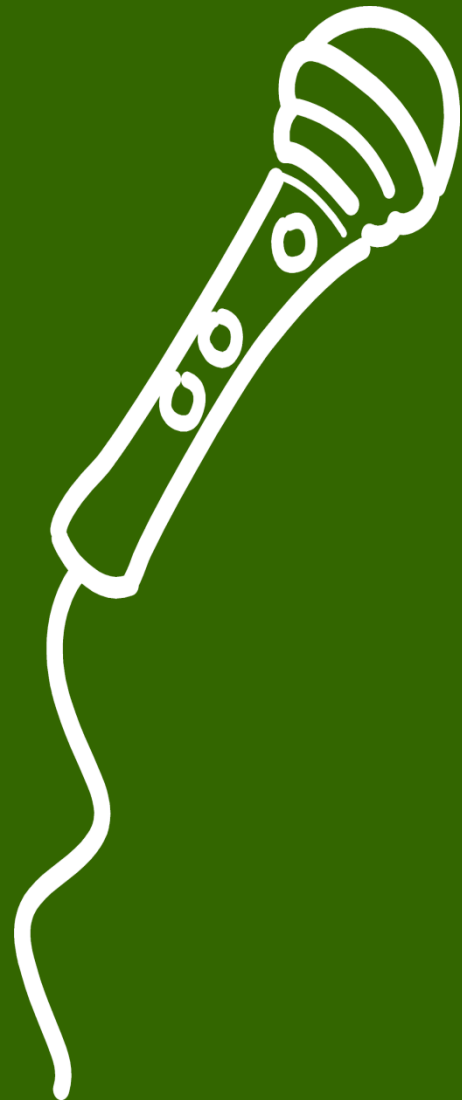
INSTITUTION	B.Ed. (ECCE)	Dip (ECCE)
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	✓	
North West University	✓	✓
Rhodes University		✓
University of Fort Hare	✓	✓
University of Free State	✓	
University of Kwa-Zulu Natal	✓	
University of Pretoria	✓	
University of South Africa		✓
University of Witwatersrand	✓	
Walter Sisulu University	✓	✓

WILL MY OLD QUALIFICATION STILL BE RECOGNISED FOR TEACHING IN ECD?

Yes, holders of historic and currently approved qualifications for ECD educators will continue to receive full recognition of their approved, completed qualifications. They might, however, be required to update their qualifications from time to time as determined by their basic conditions of employment, and in line with the principle of lifelong learning.

THE POLICY

provides a roadmap and standards for appropriate qualifications for early childhood development practitioners and educators as to ensure positive outcomes for babies and young children.





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Thank You

Questions and Discussion