



KwaZulu-Natal Early Childhood Development Community of Practice

Meeting Notes

Durban Teachers Centre, 14 Clayton Rd, Overport, Durban, 4001
30 August 2018, 10.15 – 13.30

1. Welcome, check-in and introductions

Patsy Pillay welcomed all the delegates to the 3rd BRIDGE KZN ECD CoP. She requested for delegates to introduce themselves and take a few minutes to share something about themselves, where they came from and issues of mutual interest. She noted it was positive to see delegates present from various sectors including, training providers, ECD forums, universities, practitioners and government.



2. Update on National ECD Cop Meeting (14/08/2018)

Patsy Pillay attended the BRIDGE National ECD CoP on the 14/08/18 and used the power point presentation to share a summary of the meeting. The meeting started off with a short presentation of reflections by the facilitators from COP in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and Western Cape (WC). This was followed by two further presentations on the ECD Policy by Ms Marie-Louise Samuels from Department of Basic Education (DBE) found [here](#) and Isabella Sekawana from the Department of Social Development (DSD). Her presentation can be found [here](#).

Questions and Comments

- Sue Philpott -How do we get the Foundation right and explained that there is lack of funding. Tutu Madonda noted that UKZN will be offering funding from the Department of Education for bursaries for higher education training within the PIECCE Project.
- This led a to a robust debate on the value RTO's bring to the training of students who generally seek practical guidance on policy documents, wanting to read on policies that exist at organisations and facilitation of programmes, amongst other things. Sammy Louw also highlighted the point that "Universities want a lot from RTOs but generally don't give back".
- This discussion led to the next topic for the next Bridge Forum 'Strengthening the role of Higher Education Institutions and RTO'S on the training of students".
- Patsy also drew attention to the valuable information and discussions available on the Bridge website found [here](#).

3. Showcasing of an organisation by Julie Hayes: Project Singakwenza

- The project is based in Pietermaritzburg
- Offers play based methodology
- Mentors ECD sites over 2 years – 16 crèches are involved
- Offers workshops with practitioners and parents – how to make teaching materials from anti-waste materials which includes the reusing and recycling of waste products for use in crafts, as many sites don't have access to toys and teaching aides.
- Julie Hayes used a power point presentation and started her discussion on the Sensitive Period in Brain Development (ref: Nash ,1997;early years study , 1999,Shonkoff, 2000)
- At birth, babies are ready to learn languages; we need to make sure that our children are exposed to different languages as it is critical for later development. Without a good foundation ECD will not be sustainable
- Westernisation has taken away the natural ability to do what we do best
- Julie demonstrated the various toys set out and explained the educational value of each type of toy e.g. Fine motor skills – by posting (use of yoghurt cups – caps), importance of focussing on shapes – helps with letter recognition.

“Play is the foundation for all learning in young children.”- Fred Rogers

The full presentation can be found [here](#).

The presentation was followed by a demonstration on how to make a ball using bread packets and Julie provided materials for each delegate to make a ball. Delegates were then given an opportunity to play with the ball outside, followed by a discussion and unpacking on the value of balls in promoting the holistic development of children.



There was a plenary discussion on: **HOW DO WE PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY IN ECD**

Delegates added the following points:

- Recycling and improvisation – learning can take place in any situation and circumstance
- Key to successful facilitation –lies in the passion of the facilitator
- Income generation – grow a garden and market the produce
- Get parents to give back – if you offer lower fees e.g. they make resources
- Avoid ‘throw-aways’ such as paper cups

4. Nepal Conference - Sue Philpot

Attended Conference as part of post-doctoral studies - Asia Pacific Regional Network for early Childhood (ARNEC), 3-7 June 2018: Towards achieving the SDG'S: What is a successful multi sectorial approach to ECD

She focussed on 3 components to speak to:

3. **field visits** to ECD sites – no chairs, use of natural resources in class, acknowledged own environment, creative uses of spaces
4. **content used at conference** – Lancet series – Nurturing care framework – structure of conference
5. **disability** march by carers – calling for rights of carers and children to be cared for

Key take aways:

- Power of partnerships
- Strong focus on evidence based practice
- Holistic approach using the Nurturing Care Framework
- Sharing of tools and experience
- Understanding what “inclusion means”

The full presentation
can be found [here](#).

Both speakers were thanked by the facilitator.

5. KZN Updates

KPICRCC: Rosemary Roberts reported on the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Intersectoral Children's Rights Coordination Committee (KPICRCC) meeting attended on the 16th August 2018. Four people attended from the BRIDGE KZN ECD CoP. She thanked Sammy for forwarding the invite. She informed the house that these meetings took place every two months and focussed on issues related to children. She requested copies of the new Children's Act for BRIDGE members.

Registration Challenge: Concern was expressed on the lack of support regarding registration of ECD sites in Wentworth and stated 'DSD only contacts crèches when they need stats'. Last visit from DSD workers was in 2013. After two years, her home based site got registered and she acknowledged the KZN Forum in this regard. She requested support from BRIDGE National ECD CoP on the issue of support re registration of ECD sites in Wentworth.

NCF Manuals: Khumbuzile Mathe—from DBE was asked about the availability of the manuals for practitioners. She responded that workshops were held and many had these manuals. Patsy noted that the three deaf schools in KZN were not work shopped and practitioners were not aware of this document. She asked if they were registered and noted she will look into the matter. She also noted limited copies of isiZulu copies were received.

6. General

Tutu Madonda from UKZN will check on venue – UKZN Edgewood campus. Appreciation was extended to the facilitator. Meeting was followed by networking over finger lunch.

Next Meeting

30 October 2018.



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