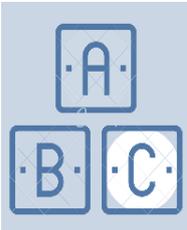


Western Cape Early Childhood Development Community of Practice

Meeting Highlights 03 October 2019

Meeting held at Early Learning Resource Unit, Cape Town

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



This Western Cape ECD CoP continued with the same work stream as the previous CoP, which was to unpack the Implementation of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in the 0-2 environments by looking at (i) the profile and skills set required for the practitioner in the 0-2-year old class and (ii) a daily programme for this age group that will act as a guideline for practitioners. The CoP was attended by practitioners, various NGO's, philanthropists and academics, all working to support and further the ECD sector.

ECD SECTOR UPDATES



CoP members shared their sector news with the CoP

SA ECD Congress

- The Western Cape province has nominated Lydia Plaaitjies for the Children's commissioner post
- Feedback from a meeting between the Labour Department and the Mitchell's Plain ECD forum regarding minimum wage of practitioners: The meeting was called after Principals were faced with fines due to noncompliance of the basic wage of R20 per hour. This is not viable for many centres in the Mitchell's Plain area as they do not receive a subsidy to assist ECD Centres; officials then advised to retrench staff or change the hours of operation or increase pay. Mellissa Jacobs referred to a clause in Government Gazette number 4124 that allows trade unions, organisation etc. to negotiate to reduce the minimum wage rate.

Africa A + Schools

- Africa A+ Schools have started working in the Eastern Cape as well as working with the University of Cape Town on a Lego Technology project which has been replicated from the UK to see the link between technology and play

DoMore Foundation

CEO Business Function was held in October

ELRU

- ELRU is working with two groups of youth on their NQF level 4 and getting them ready for their practical and going into the field for the very first time
- Parenting Workshops are seeing a growing attendance and contributing to rigorous session discussion
- Carol received an invitation to Think Future and is continuing work on the UNICEF Project, looking at the resources for the play based learning curriculum

The CoP is reminded of BRIDGE's knowledge management role. All meetings, presentations and discussions are captured and shared on BRIDGE's Knowledge Hub, as are any other specific knowledge products relevant to ECD. [Here](#) is the link to this.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION



The CoP has been working on understanding the support needed for practitioners in the 0-2-year-old environment. Carol explained the two work streams that were formed: the **first** stemmed from the need to empower the practitioner, caring for the 0-2 year olds as they are often on the bottom of the totem and often the most expendable. The **second** work stream looked at a programme that can be imparted to the practitioner which included stimulation activities for practitioners who might have up to 6 + babies that are at different points in their development and with varying developmental needs.

Carol spoke through a site learning programme poster, developed by ELRU as a resource for the practitioner in the 0-2year environment and how they are used by practitioners. She highlighted that although they have received positive feedback from those using the resource, it takes intensive training to get the practitioner to a place where they are comfortable with using it as a resource.

CoP members were then invited to share their thoughts and resources by splitting into the two works streams

Stream 1 (The Practitioners) - How to empower the practitioner for the 0-2 year old that they feel important? How do we make them understand that they their age group is the most important?

Development and training need to take a broad approach by developing training for practitioners and principals specifically designed for the 0-2-year-old class. Furthermore, training and development need to take place for the principals to understand the child's first 1000 days and the important role the practitioner has during that time.

Key areas of the practitioners training and development might include:

- Personal development and self- esteem
- Child development and understanding of the first 1000 days, milestones, brain development etc.
- Knowledge of pedagogy through play
- Working with parents

Principals Development and Training should include all of the above and also look at conditions of service in the work place. If principals are not looking at this, the practitioner will always be undermined.

Key Education Points

- FET Colleges can relook at how much of their curriculum is focused on 0-2 years olds to best prepare practitioners for this age group compared to the older cohort

Key points in creating advocacy and awareness around the 0-2 practitioner

- Using Media to celebrate outstanding practitioners in your community such as a "nominate your hero" etc

Events can be hosted that look at:

- How to share resources that are already in place that can be harnessed to promote the first thousand days.
- Resources that avail to promote the 1000 days

A suggestion was made to look at life skills in the high school curriculum that explores the first 1000 days and its importance. Additionally, we need look at faith-based organisations to get behind the campaign and spread awareness

Stream 2 (Activities and Resources) - Activities and resources that a practitioner or parent can use with the babies in their classroom-not limited to the training manual.

A wealth of possibilities exists in developing the practitioner to give them a credible role.

The group highlighted that their thinking around a programme was more of a teaching approach than curriculum. They looked at their task in terms of a time line and plotted age appropriate activities on the time line between 0-2 years. It was highlighted that there should be language engagement/talking at every age and the following criteria:

0-3 month milestones

- looking at the body using the body as resource e.g. clapping
- Singing, cuddling, activities for grasping , holding blocks, massaging, rattles- and different sounds and texture
- Tummy time for the recommended time at each age.

3-6 month milestones

- Responding with materials and activities
- Mirror activities
- Anything that rolls
- Outdoor activities
- Copying facial expressions

6-12 month milestones

- Playing on the floor
- Crawling activities
- Pulling up on chairs
- Treasure baskets with safe household items of different textures
- Water and sand play

1-2 year milestones

- Sorting blocks, colours, shapes
- Pretend play
- Nesting
- Grouping and classifying
- Language
- Games
- Dancing

Question:

How do we get the resources to the Practitioners?

Carol mentioned SABC Education as a resource that has a very broad reach. An option could be to use influencers on social media platforms.

Planning for 2020

The CoP will convene 4 times in 2020 in the third week of the month on a Thursday. The first two topics have been agreed upon and will be reviewed by July 2020.

Date	Topic
20 February	Unpack the 29 Government Departments that are meant to provide support with Early Childhood Development move from DSD to DBE
21 May	Information fair for 29 Government Departments
20 August	TBC
22 October	TBC

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