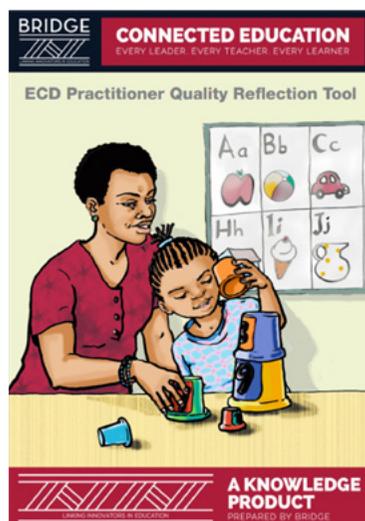


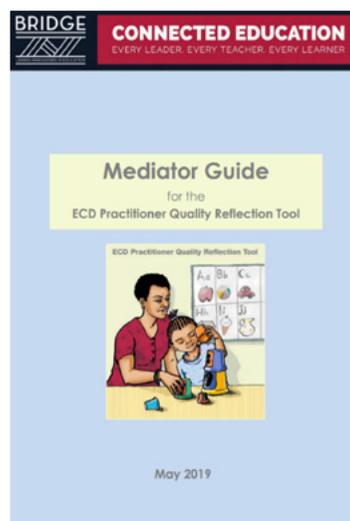


## IMPLEMENTING THE BRIDGE QUALITY REFLECTION TOOL: AN UPDATE (2021)

The ECD Practitioner Quality Reflection Tool (QRT) is a resource for practitioners to help them reflect on their work. It poses questions on four areas of ECD practice and provides resources for practitioners to engage with these. Through the reflection process, it helps practitioners identify the strengths and weaknesses in their practice, and gives them planning tools to address these. It can be used as a stand-alone resource, or in a training context. There is a Mediator Guide that gives examples of activities that can be used to mediate and promote the use of the QRT.



<http://www.bridge.org.za/knowledgehub/ecd-practitioner-quality-reflection-tool/>



<http://www.bridge.org.za/knowledgehub/mediator-guide/>

### THE 4 QUALITY PRACTICE AREAS IN THE QRT

Teaching  
and Learning

ECD  
Environment

ECD Policy  
Framework

Leadership  
and  
Management



## WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

- The question “What is quality in ECD?” was discussed in the BRIDGE ECD communities of practice (national and provincial) and gave rise to the idea of the Practitioner Quality Reflection Tool (QRT).
- The ECD QRT Pilot Project in 2016-2017 involved nine partner organisations, mediating the QRT at 21 sites in six provinces. Pilot results fed into finalising the **ECD Practitioner Quality Tool** and the **Mediator Guide**, which were published and distributed as Open Education Resources (OERs) in 2018-2019.
- BRIDGE began a ‘light touch’ tracking of implementation<sup>1</sup> in 2019 through focus groups and discussions on the uptake and use with some of our implementing partners, and a limited survey process. This process was halted by the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic.

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

How to grow quality in ECD in the range of contexts in which ECD takes place remains a key issue in the sector. In addition, the systematisation of quality assurance for ECD is on the agenda. While the QRT was conceived of as a developmental tool rather than a compliance instrument, there are ways in which the tool can feed into quality measurement. Both the QRT Practitioner File and the Mediator Guide can and have been used in a number of ways, at different levels and for different purposes. **Examples are:**



As a resource to be used directly by individual practitioners, who work through the file at their own pace and in terms of their own needs.



Mediation by centre principals or managers with their staff: for professional development purposes, for addressing problem areas specific to their centres, or as a structuring device in staff meetings.



As a resource for a group of practitioners working through it together in a team-work forum or context.



By training providers (RTOs or HEIs) who can select, adapt and integrate QRT content into different training activities within a training curriculum.



As a resource for mentors of ECD practitioners.



As a data gathering instrument for quality assurance purposes.

<sup>1</sup> Thanks to funding allocated by Sasol for M&E of the ECD Quality Reflection Tool



## WHAT IS THE AIM OF THIS UPDATE?

Given the ongoing interest in and relevance of the QRT, in 2021 BRIDGE is looking at ways of inserting the tool into programmes in which we play a role, and monitoring general uptake and usage. To this end, we have developed a **QRT Feedback Model**, designed for initial implementation of the tool. We plan to test this model in a programme-specific context with practitioners in the Eastern Cape, in support of our own internal M&E processes. This update therefore aims to:

- Promote the uptake of the QRT, available on our website on the links given.
- Share BRIDGE's **QRT Feedback Model**, and invite any organisations who want to use the QRT in line with this model to talk to us. BRIDGE will share the support materials we are using for delivering the model, and establish ways of capturing and sharing any data gathered with these partners.
- Invite those who have used or are using the QRT (in whatever ways) to communicate with us, and to share any feedback they may have. One way that this can be done is to complete our existing QRT survey, which you can find here.
- Remind those in the sector who were involved with and are familiar with the QRT of its existence, and alert those in the sector who may not know about the QRT to its existence.

*The QRT Feedback Model is summarised on next page*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

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# FRAMEWORK FOR AN INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION AND FEEDBACK MODEL FOR THE QRT



## EVENT 1

INDUCTION WORKSHOP  
*(In-person event if possible)*

**Part 1: For practitioners and future mediators**  
(e.g. centre principals)

**AIM:** To familiarise participants with the purpose, structure and contents of the QRT

**APPROACH:** Activity-based, using the QRT file, pair and group work

**Part 2: For mediators only**

**AIM:** To clarify uses of QRT in own context and to engage with principles of mediation and the Mediator Guide

**APPROACH:** Discussion and modelling of training

SIX WEEK INTERVAL

- Set up a WhatsApp group for practitioners and mediators
- Provide a 'programme of questions' to prompt WhatsApp conversations between participants
- Share monitoring approach with group members
- Collect and analyse WhatsApp comments
- Engage and prompt as required



MID-POINT

- Formal, facilitated online check-in session
- Aim is to identify key barriers and find solutions, and share major successes
- Preparation for Event 2

## EVENT 2

FEEDBACK WORKSHOP  
*(In-person event if possible)*

**For practitioners and mediators**

**AIMS:**

- To get feedback on using the QRT and MG
- To explore any application of lessons learned
- To get participants to complete a structured questionnaire on site

**APPROACH:** Structured feedback and reflection activities, participant presentations, and filling in of questionnaire