

## KWAZULU NATAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

### SETTING THE SCENE

CoP Facilitator, Patsy Pillay, kicked off the meeting by asking participants to introduce themselves and their organisations. BRIDGE ECD programme manager, Thandeka Rantsi, gave the following updates:

- The Western Cape ECD Cop recently hosted a seminar on parenting for young children (age 0-5). Throughout the year, the BRIDGE ECD CoPs have had a strong focus on parenting, and by extension families. This CoP meeting is a continuation of that effort as gender based violence (GBV) is something that affects families and children. To access the parenting seminar meeting highlights click [here](#).
- BRIDGE's work in the Intersectoral Forum (ISF) is ongoing. Recently BRIDGE has formed part of the technical team that is reviewing the second Children's Amendment Bill.
- BRIDGE is also part of the Social Protection Committee in the ISF, to mobilise and connect organisations working in the parenting sphere.
- The DBE is currently rolling out the ECD Census, to learn more click [here](#)

### OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS

#### GBV INTERVENTION: AN EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING INITIATIVE

*Patsy Pillay*

The Early Childhood Training Initiative is a partnership of 13 organisations, using an online training approach to target 350 practitioners and 5000 children per year. It was created with the aim of:

- Creating a platform for ECE trainers and practitioners to reflect on their own gender values, norms and beliefs, gender equality and violence against women and children.
- Equipping ECE practitioners with the knowledge, skills and confidence to integrate values-based life skills in their programmes to promote gender equality in ECD Sites.
- Raising awareness around GBV issues and to reinforce non-violent child management strategies with parents/caregivers/stakeholders

#### Summary of lessons learned from implementation

- It begins at home....initially. Eliminating all forms of violence in the home, not just physical abuse / punishment of children starts in the early years.
- learning must be by example and through the presentation of opportunities for chores free of gender-based bias.
- Positive self-esteem and affirmation is critical
- Exploring child management techniques is central to building a new ethos.
- Include parents (families/fathers), communities and other stakeholders

To access Patsy's presentation, click [here](#)



NEW BEGINNINGS & NTATAISE



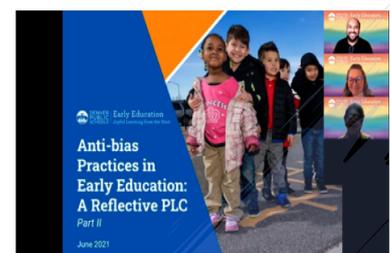
LET'S TALK | BREAKING THE CYCLE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE...  
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS

BRIDGE COP :KZN

Wednesday | 30 September 2021

Presentation Slide

IT ALL STARTS WITH ECD...



LET'S TALK | BREAKING THE CYCLE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE...  
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS

Presentation Slide

## LETCEE PROJECT ON GBV TRAINING INTERVENTIONS

Poonam Dwarkaram



Letcee Project  
Funded by Solidarity Fund



Letcee

The LETCEE GBV intervention, funded by the solidarity fund, is aimed at play group facilitators, centre practitioners and LETCEE staff members, who, in turn, pass on information to members of the community, caregivers in the ECD centres/ playgroups and their own families and friends.

The training interventions give an overview of the following concepts:

- An introduction to GBV
- The process of identifying and reporting abuse
- Self Esteem in young children (and how it links to GBV)
- Why gender responsive pedagogy in ECD is important
- Educators as facilitators of healing

<sup>1</sup> The training contributes to the ending of the cycle of violence by

- Bringing awareness about GBV in communities
- Providing relevant information to Practitioners, focusing on the intersection between GBV and ECD
- Holding relevant stakeholders to account in relation to breaking the cycle of violence in our communities

To access Poonam's presentation, [click here](#)

## FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME FOR ECD AND GBV PREVENTION AWARENESS

Rebecca Wakeford

The Play Talk Learn Family Strengthening Programme, focuses on children aged between 3-5 and their caregivers by engaging them with appropriate developmental learning activities and thereby building supportive learning environments and empowering caregivers. The main activities are weekly, hour long home based ECD visits by a Caregiver Mentor, where children and their caregivers engage in stimulation activities using free and found resources. Caregiver Support Groups meet monthly at play days for positive parenting support and Caregiver Mentors will support caregivers through the development of a trusting partnership. Awareness creation around gender based violence happens through engagement between Caregiver Mentors and Caregivers as well as working in partnership with the local Social Workers at the monthly play days

### Summary of Lessons learned from implementation

- Training and capacity building of project staff is vital and needs to encompass all aspects of GBV
- Be prepared for project staff to be confronting their own GBV related issues as the topics are unpacked.
- Be cognisant of the impact on the project leaders - who are now drawn on for personal and professional support.
- Project staff are human too, and regular debriefings need to be considered.
- Be clear on what the roles and responsibilities of the project staff are, in relation to others who have been trained specifically to deal with issues and referrals.
- Caregivers feel that cases that are reported are not being attended to. Again, if this is reported to us, what is our responsibility?
- Try to map out the community ecosystem for dealing with gender based violence, and engage with as many support structures as possible prior to starting.
- Determining quantifiable measurements for progress is challenging.
- Partnerships and Support

To access Rebecca's presentation, [click here](#)



# VVOB GENDER-RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (GRP4ECE)

Philisiwe Ndlovu

The GRP4ECE programme aims to develop and test a South African approach to gender-responsive early childhood education, based on the international GRP4ECE toolkit. The toolkit was developed by VVOB and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and endorsed by the African Union and the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA).

The project is built around four pillars:

- Contextualisation of the GRP4ECE toolkit
- Development of open educational resources
- Professional development on GRP for ECE teachers, school leaders and subject advisors
- Research on the effectiveness of the toolkit

- **GRP4ECE toolkit**  
<https://www.vvob.org/en/downloads/grp4ece-toolkit>
- **Teachers dismantle gender stereotypes with GRP4ECE toolkit**  
<https://www.vvob.org/en/news/grp4ece-toolkit>
- **GRP4ECE Open Educational Resources -**  
<https://southafrica.vvob.org/news/open-educational-resources-promote-gender-equality-early-childhood-development>

## ECD AND GBV: WHAT IS KEY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO KNOW?

JOAN VAN NIEKERK

### GBV Figures in SA

- Estimated figures range enormously from 33% to 67% for women
- It is estimated that only 1 in 9 women and children report.
- We don't know the percentage of men and how many boys do not report.
- The definition of violence in the Domestic Violence Act includes verbal violence, which is not accounted for.

### The impact of exposure to violence in children

- The copying of aggressive behaviours: boys tend to externalise via overt behaviour. Girls tend to internalise the trauma via depression and anxiety.
- Heightened arousal (anxiety) leads to elevated/raised hormones which impacts on brain development and functioning.

*To access Joan's presentation, [click here](#)*



### CHECK OUT

Patsy closed the meeting by thanking presents, participants and partners.

### The role of ECD and partial care programmes are critical

- There should be a broad approach which includes the training of ECD and care practitioners
- Training of ECD practitioners should include a focus on their interaction with children and a focus on interaction between children.
- ECDs present opportunities relating to contact and information sharing with parents and the broader community

### To minimise GBV, focus on:

- Promoting rights and responsibilities of all
- Promoting non-violent values in word and by example
- Challenging attitudes: our own first
- Changing behaviour, our own first.
- Children are more likely to learn by example and not via instruction at his age.



To keep up with our ECD updates, follow our facebook page on this [link](#)