



Presentation to Portfolio Committee on Social Development

Tuesday, 18 May 2021



Investment in the future workforce starts by investing in the very young, from birth



Scaling access to quality ECD programmes can unlock pathways out of poverty, build employment and productivity, and level up developmental outcomes for children

Source: Better Jobs and Brighter Futures : Investing in Childcare to Build Human Capital (worldbank.org)

South Africa's National Development Plan: Vision for 2030, states that the country intends to “make ECD a top priority among measures to improve quality education and long term prospects of future generations.”



Over 1 million children (aged 3-5 years) in South Africa have no access to an early learning programme



To achieve **universal access to ECD** for all boys and girls by **2030** an **investment of R34.3 billion** is needed in ECD



350 000 qualified ECD practitioners and assistants are required to ensure universal access to quality early childhood education



For every Rand invested in early childhood there is a ten-fold return, not only for the individual but also for society



Cotlands Early Learning Playgroups

Playgroups to provide learning activities and opportunities for child socialisation and to act as a referral point for other services.

(NIECDP, Republic of South Africa, 2015:14)



Birth-to-two playgroups

Mother and
child baby
sensory classes



Two-to-four playgroups

Four-hour session
to develop child
holistically



Referral point

Health and
psychosocial
issues



Parent workshops

Enable play-based
learning in home
environments



Capacity Building

Train
caregivers to
facilitate play



Cotlands Toy libraries

Toy libraries provide developmentally appropriate educational play materials to early childhood development service providers, parents or children.

(NIECDP, Republic of South Africa, 2015:14)



Come and play

Two hour play
sessions per
day



Go and play

Mobile play
sessions



Lend and play

Borrow toys
every two
weeks



Make and play

Make
improvised
toys



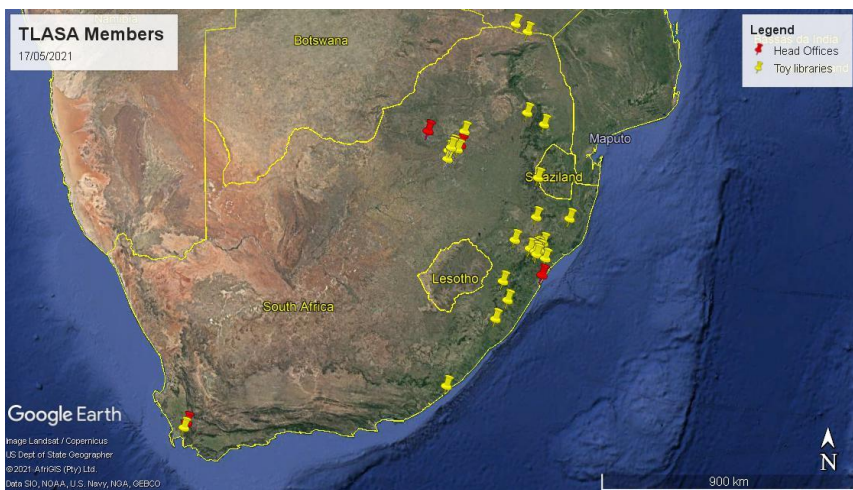
Capacity building

Train
community to
facilitate play



Events

World Play Day,
Toy Library
seminars



Membership

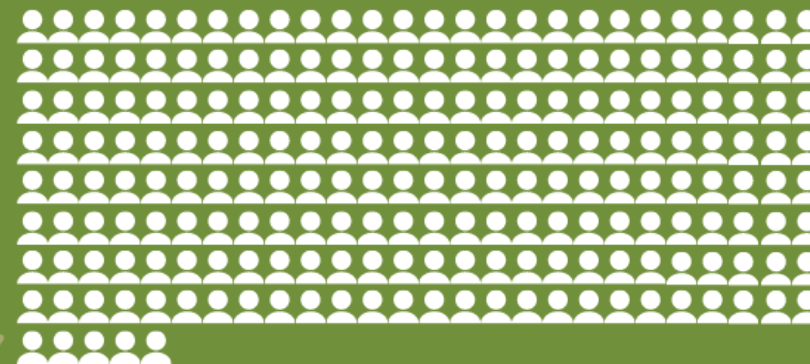
12
organisations /
individuals



representing
41
toy libraries

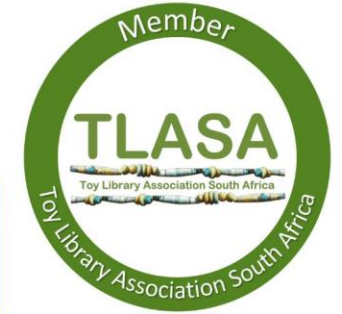


serving
17 139
beneficiaries



= 80 people

Toy libraries in government



Municipal libraries
Toy libraries



Department
of Arts and
Culture



Department of
Social
Development

ECD centres
community centres



Department
of Basic
Education



Department
of Health

Hospitals | Mobile
health clinics



School libraries







What is CotlandsIgnite™



Cotlands **ignite™** an innovative e-learning training platform

Investments in ECD training will greatly improve the **quality of services** to our children that live in **disadvantaged communities**.



SAQA ID 97542

**Occupational Certificate: Early
Childhood Development Practitioner**



R46 917 incl. vat



12-18 months



SAQA ID 114592, 115857, 263534, 114805, 263434

**New Venture Creation
Toy Library Skills Programme**



R17 669 incl. vat



8 months

Our impact



11859 Early Learning
Playgroup and Toy
Library beneficiaries



R200 cost per
beneficiary per month



2 500 adults participated
in parenting and capacity
building training



66 learners enrolled on
online training platform
CotlandsIgnite

Benefits for the children and their families



1

Access

2

Free service sponsored by government, individuals and corporate South Africa

3

Children have fun

4

Learn through play

5

Improved school readiness scores

6

A snack and cooked lunch

7

Screening by a nurse, health and psychosocial referrals

8

Toys from the toy library is used at home by parents to play with their children

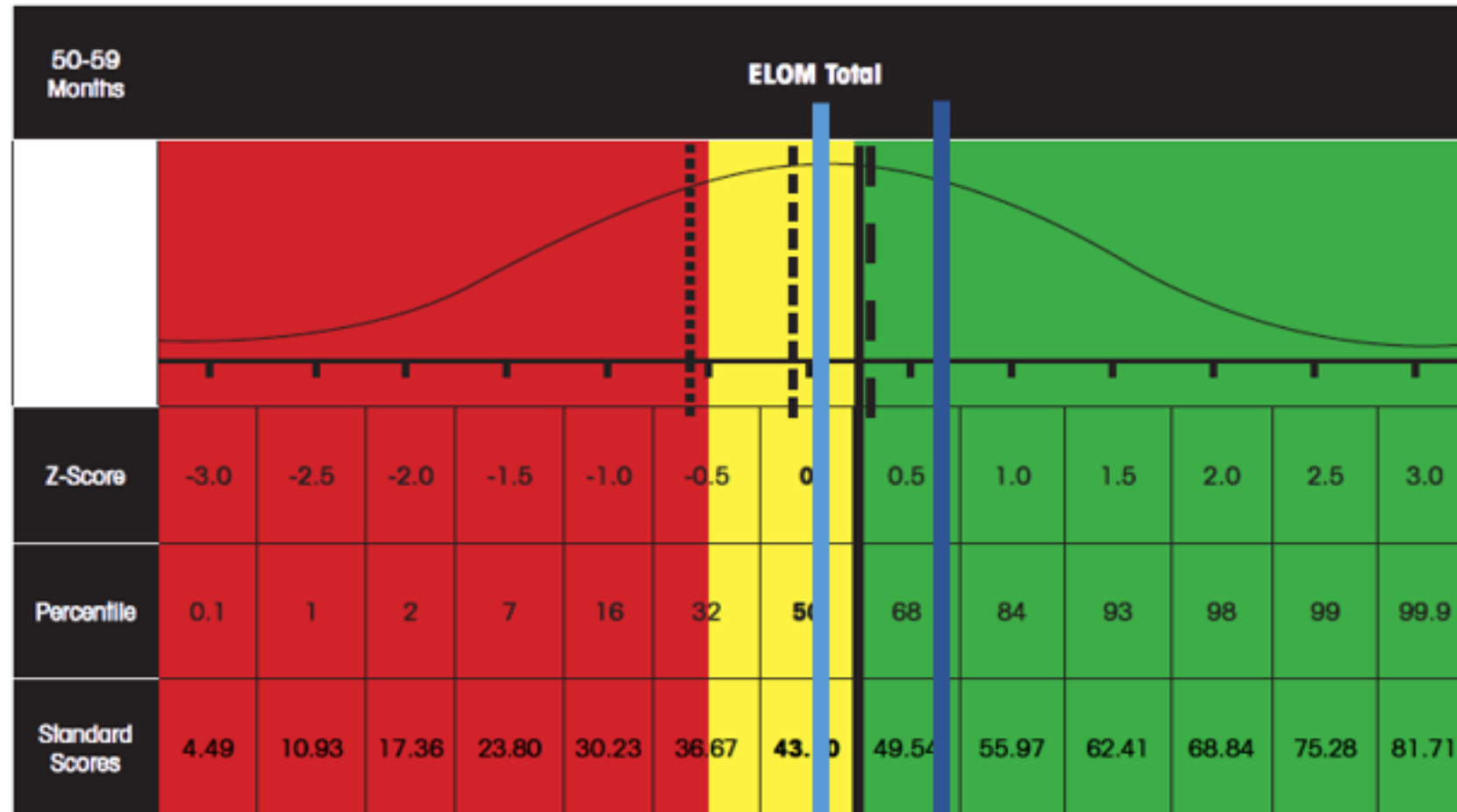
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Parents access capacity building opportunities

10

Capacitate other organisations to replicate our model

ELOM: Evaluating our impact



Pre-test: Feb. 2017 (Light blue line)

Post-test: Nov. 2017 (Dark blue line)



Recommendation 1

Access to funding against set norms and standards to ensure quality provisioning



Programmatic
funding

One step
registration
process

Promote best
practice
principles



Toy Library Association of South Africa is supportive of our submission to introduce a one-step registration process for Toy Libraries against a set of suitable norms and standards required to operate quality toy library programmes as outlined by the association and supported by its members.



Recommendation 2

Prioritising programmes that are easy to implement and impact more children



Prioritise non-centre based programmes

Impact the lives of thousands more children

Programmes are quick & easy to implement

Safe, secure and accessible play spaces

Government provide underutilised municipal infrastructure



Recommendation 3

Provincial responsibility to set-up toy libraries in municipal libraries



Department of
Sport, Arts,
Culture and
Recreation
mandate

Ensure
sufficient
access of play-
based
opportunities

Municipal
libraries have
failed to fulfil
their mandate

Unlock
discretionary
funding at
municipal level

Cotlands has
the skills and
knowledge to
upscale toy
libraries



Recommendation 4

Building capacity with qualified practitioners to deliver quality play-based learning



Address the skills shortage of qualified practitioners in ECD sector

Poorer children more likely to receive poor quality programme

Urgent need to build capacity to reach our goal universal access by 2030

Secure jobs for qualified ECD practitioners and to earn a living wage



Recommendation 5

Toy Library services and training for parents to facilitate play in their home-environment



First five years are essential for cognitive growth and development

Parent training required to promote the power of play-based learning

Children spend most of their time at home with no access to play-based opportunities

Empowering parents to fulfil the role of play-based learning at home

Toy library service is environmentally friendly and is cost-effective

Amendments to the Bill specific to toy libraries



A simpler, one-step registration process for ECD providers to access programmatic funding

Compliance norms and standards that consider toy libraries

Provincial recognition of the role of toy libraries in the ECD landscape

Build skilled capacity with ECD providers servicing poor communities

Parent training at toy libraries empowers parents to provide play-based opportunities at home

Process requests

The Portfolio Committee must commit to:

Strict, urgent timelines for the finalisation of a Second Amendment Bill which meets our call for key reforms.



Clearly establishing who will be responsible for leading the finalisation of the Second Amendment Bill.



Joint sittings of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development and the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education must be prioritised to facilitate this.

In closing



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