

Early Childhood Development

Presentation to the
Portfolio
Committee on
Social Development

18 May 2021



PRESENTATION LAYOUT

ESSENTIAL TOOLBOX

ECD DECLARATION

REQUIRED
REGULATORY
REFORM

THE IMPORTANCE
OF ECD

CONCLUSION

PENREACH ECD ESSENTIAL BOX

Management and governance

- Quality ECD provision
- The Legal framework in ECD
- The registration of ECD centers and programs

Health and safety

- Environmental health hazards
- Basic First Aid Skills in the ECD Centre.
- Emergency plans in the ECD`s

ECD Services Operations

- National Curriculum Birth to 4 years
- Assessment
- Developing Resources

Penreach Essential Package Levels 1 -3



Penreach



ECD DECLARATION

We the undersigned: Buffalo City Declaration East London 27 to 30 March 2012

Acknowledging that Early Childhood Development (ECD) services are an investment in the overall well-being of children and intrinsically related to the promotion of child rights, poverty eradication, sustainable human resource development, basic education and health for all as enshrined in the South African Constitution.

South Africa is... a signatory to some international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Right of a Child as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Through United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations continues to work with us in advocating for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

P e n r e a c h



The importance of ECD

- Strong evidence internationally and locally indicates that sufficient investment in early childhood development (ECD) can significantly improve national educational, health, social and economic outcomes.
- ECD is the most powerful investment in human capital that a country can make to make it possible for children to grow and develop to their full potential.
- The current unattainable regulatory framework remains one of the barriers to access and quality ECD provision. Trembles on the universal right of every child – the right to a good quality start of education.



Required regulatory framework

1. We need a one-step registration process for ECD providers and different types of ECD providers must be regulated differently.

- We strongly agree with the emphasis on different modalities that needs to be considered to accommodate all children need ECD services.
- Government can make it mandatory to all provinces to allocate the function of ECD services registrations NGO partners in the respective provinces to fast-track registrations case in point the Western Cape DSD.
- **A case in point:** Out of 130 ECD centres, 94 centres managed to register with DSD and the remaining 36 centres are struggling with issues of registration because of the complex registration process and compliance municipal requirements.



Required regulatory framework

2. All children attending any type of ECD programme should be able to **access the early learning subsidy** if they need it.

- We strongly believe the support will assist in supporting children at ECD and including good nutrition



Required regulatory framework

3. Simpler, adequate health, safety and programme standards must be in place and must be accessed through one process.

- Develop simplified guide to support the process
- The goal should take a developmental approach as opposed to punitive compliance measures
- Penreach ECD Essential toolbox guides that measures on health and safety



Required regulatory framework

4. It must be made clear that you can get **conditional registration** if you can't meet all the registration requirements and MECs must **support** providers to meet requirements and **report** on their systems of support.

- Support the conditional registration as a form to encourage already existing measures in place



Required regulatory framework

5. The infrastructure needs of the sector must be supported.

- Simplified guidelines on land use for ECD services
- Developmental approach



CONCLUSION

- Adherence to strict, urgent timelines to which the Second Amendments Bill must be finalized and that these timeframes to be published this year.
- Finalization of the Second Amendments Bill should consider the current migration process of ECD from DSD to DBE, there is need to provide clear direction and communication.
- The delay in the finalization of the Second Amendments Bill will compromise the access to quality ECD programmes to hundreds of thousands of children
- We are therefore requesting the Portfolio Committee to consider this regulatory framework on ECD landscape – we cannot look back in 20 years time and say we have still failed our children. We know how to change their future and together we can.

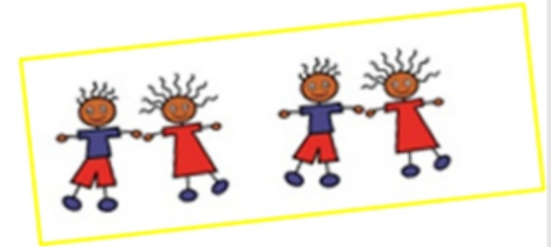


Thank You!



Penreach ECD

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