

**In this
edition...**



**NDA Hosts
SA National
Early
Childhood
Development
Awards**



**ECD
Winners
In The
Various
Categories**

Looking forward to a prosperous 2019

The staff of the National Development Agency (NDA) continues to demonstrate dedication and hard work towards the huge task of eradicating poverty in South Africa – I have received valuable feedback from the stakeholders, guiding us towards becoming more focused on our mandate. The recent 2017/18 Auditor General adverse audit finding against us has given us the opportunity to go back to the drawing board and improve on our reporting systems. This process is already underway to ensure that we report on not only the numbers, but also enabling us to report on the impact of our organization in line with linkages made and the sustainability of the civil society organisations we support. This process will also help us to assess our impact over the last 25 years, as the whole government undergoes an introspection process over this period.

The NDA forms part of the Presidential Steering Committee looking into the organization and enhancement of the civil society sector. As Secretariat, we will be involved in the mobilisation of Provincial Presidential Summits in all nine provinces, which will culminate into a national conference where all views will be heard and considered for the outcome of a stronger civil society movement within our country. The NDA appreciates the support of the Social Development Portfolio Committee who remains in support of our mandate, which is the improved allocation of the NDA within the government service delivery scope as well as realizing the necessary resources in accordance to the mandate. Internally, the NDA Board has taken an active role participating in oversight visits to NDA funded initiatives in provinces, not only giving credence to the work done by officials, but also taking the projects to the next level.

We are also making progress in improving relations with Traditional Leaderships all over South Africa, as they are a crucial participant in our mandate. We met the Traditional Leaderships at a recent national workshop hosted by the Department of Social Development, at provincial level, and will also be making direct contact with them early this year.

Recently, the organization underwent a brief industrial strike action that has now been amicably resolved, no doubt a learning curve for all parties involved, and certainly a move forward towards improved worker and employer relations.

The NPO Bill is an exciting development within our sector, which we look forward to be part of, as the Minister of Social Development pioneers its passing into law by the cabinet. We will keep you updated on the developments.

We have just celebrated the national South African Early Childhood Development Awards in Polokwane, Limpopo, to acknowledge and reward the tireless work done within the sector. Congratulations to the winners! (Please see the winners on the following page.) I wish to thank each and every one of the participants, even though some were not successful, we will continue giving our support and ensure they improve in matters related to governance and meeting all the norms and standards to run successful and registered entities.

We hope you had a festive holiday season and are recharged and ready for the new year. I wish to send all our readers and stakeholders a message of prosperity for 2019.

Yours in development,

Mrs Thamo Mzobe

NDA Chief Executive Officer



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Chief Executive Officer



NDA HOSTS SA ECD AWARDS

THE NDA TO HOST NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AWARDS CEREMONY IN POLOKWANE

Limpopo - The National Development Agency (NDA) hosted the awards ceremony at the Protea The Ranchu Hotel in December 2018, to honour top achievers within the ECD sector.

The South African Early Childhood Development Awards are held annually to acknowledge men and women who continuously contribute positively in the quality of lives for children between ages of 0 and 4 years old, thus improving and increasing their success prospects in life. Led by the National Development Agency (NDA), a Social Development entity, the primary aim of these awards is to recognise and reward excellence, innovation, best practice, dedication and participation within the ECD sector.

Top achievers within Best ECD Centre of the Year, Best ECD Practitioner of the Year, Best ECD Non-Centre Programme of the Year, Best ECD Trainer, Best ECD Programme for Children with Disabilities of the Year and Best ECD Centre Based Nutrition Programme of the Year categories will be honoured during an awards ceremony.

Early Childhood Development was declared a public good by the 2012 National Conference of the ruling party and as such, it remains amongst important pillars of government's educational and development programmes through which children can be nurtured and developed emotionally, cognitively and psychologically.

It is for this reason that the Department of Social Development is committed to increase access to ECD services for children living in rural and informal settlements. To date, Eight hundred and twenty seven thousand three hundred and thirty eight (827 338) children have access to ECD. These centres provide comprehensive basic services such as shelter, primary health care, nutritious food as well as overall learning support for children.

Children who attend ECDs receive a government subsidy of R15 per child for 264 days across all provinces. ECD centres are also helpful for unemployed mothers who are able to leave their children in safe and capable hands of well-trained ECD practitioners while they seek employment opportunities.

Government spends millions each year in support of ECDs and over the next two years of the MTEF period, an amount of R812 Million Conditional Grant has been set aside for ECD centres.

In full support of ECD centres and their significance, in 2015, Cabinet approved the National Integrated Policy for ECDs. The purpose of this policy is to ensure universal availability of ECD services across all communities in the country. The ECD Policy, will further assist with introduction of new services to fill identified gaps, especially within the first 1 000 days of a child's life; which are the most important days in laying a good quality foundation for all children in South Africa.

"The solution for a South Africa we want by 2030, one that is free of gender-based violence, rape and all its social ills, squarely depends on how we groom our children at ECD centres. We need ECDs that are dynamic and responsive to children's social behavioural patterns and their experience of today's social challenges. South Africa needs Practitioners with good hearts, intentions and trustworthy to care for our children", said Deputy Minister of Social Development Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT READINESS, BACK TO SCHOOL

This is the time of the year when most parents will take their children back to school. But for most, it will be the first time.

Early childhood development is a programme offered to children from birth to school going age that focuses on the holistic (physical, emotional, cognitive and social) development of a child. Children go through remarkable growth with brain development at its peak at this stage, therefore it is imperative that they receive the correct stimulation.

The National Development Agency offers expert advice on what parents should look for when enrolling their children at ECD centres in line with compliance matters such as registration, safety and security, learning methodology, teacher training etc.

It is imperative that parents ask the correct questions at the centres of learning to ensure their children are receiving maximum care, support and learning outcomes for their relevant ages.

11 Tips for parents when looking for ECD centre:

REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE

1. Is the ECD centre registered and does it meet all the norms and standards? A registration certificate must be displayed on the wall for parents to see.

SAFETY AND PLAY

2. Safety of children in key – does the ECD centre have a fence, wall, lockable gate?
3. Is there enough space in the yard for play equipment? Jungle gyms/swings and other equipment is vital for the development of children's gross motor skills.
4. Is the building housing the ECD centre safe? Are there enough windows? Are there two emergency exits in case of a fire/emergency?
5. Parents must provide the ECD centre with accurate and full information to enable the ECD centre to generate communication systems in cases of emergency.

LEARNING

6. How many classrooms are there? Are children allocated per age group (0-6 months; 6-18 months; 18 months-3 years; 3-4 years, 4-5 years? This speaks to responding to development needs of a child at each major stage of development.
7. Each child should be allocated a place to sit (class rooms must have enough tables and chairs for all learners).
8. Parents should ask to see the layout of the classroom. There are various activity areas that are compulsory: fantasy corner, fine motor development area, art cognitive development area, bag area, ring area, walls should have charts with shapes, colours, numbers and a daily programme.
9. The number of staff in the ECD centre is key – each class must have a qualified practitioner and must be with children all the time. The other ECD centre staff (cleaner/cook) cannot replace teaching staff.

ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

10. The ECD centre must have sufficient toilets for the children, they should be sized properly and have wash basins that children can reach.

NUTRITION

11. Nutrition is key to learning – does the ECD centre offer breakfast/snack and lunch? An alternative and seasonal menu of the week with a variety of food groups must be displayed in the kitchen.

SCHOOL READINESS

Following a holistic ECD programme, children advance from an ECD centre to Grade R, not only when they have reached the Department of Education prescribed age, but especially when they have achieved these milestones:

1. Physical development: fine and motor development – gross motor develops large muscles, the child must be able to run, jump, skip, walk up the stairs. Physical education caters for this. Fine motor development focuses on small muscles – is the child able to hold a pen, can the child write his name, is the child able to participate in activities that involve the use of hands and fingers?

2. Social and emotional development – is the child able to share space with other children, can they participate in group activities, can they follow school rules and behave appropriately?
3. Exploring mathematics: child must be able to identify numbers, count 1-20 at least, ability to sort and classify, make comparisons and solve problems. They must know the four shapes: square, circle, rectangle and triangle.
4. Creativity – can the child draw pictures, sing songs and rhymes, make belief games/stories, dance and play?
5. Communication – can the child speak and listen (vocabulary and language and sentence construction)?
6. Independence – is child able to go to toilet alone, can child feed/dress on their own and tie own laces, are they responsible for their property, do they know their own and guardian/parents' names, home address and phone numbers?

Early childhood development – an early start for a better future: it is proven that children who undergo a good ECD programme will do well throughout schooling years.

These are the winners in the various categories:

BEST PUBLICATION



Dikeledi Zulu (GP)



Lerato Siphungu (GP)



Ayanda Hlabisa (KZN)

BEST NON CENTRE BASED



Thembi Dladla (GP)



Makgauta Ratolo (FS)



Julie Hay (KZN)



Carol Dawn Jack (WC)

BEST DISABILITY PROGRAMME



Beauty Malinga (GP)



Benita Petersen (WC)



Nancy Rwexana (WC)

BEST TRAINER



Jessica Ronaasen (EC)



Binny Magdelaine Mokoena (GP)



Anna Tyatyi (GP)

BEST NUTRITION



Joyce Seoko (LP)



Mavis Xaba (GP)



Jabulile Qumbisa (KZN)

BEST ECD PRACTITIONER

Winners are shown in red.



Vuyokazi Wewe (EC)
(Noluthando Pre-School)



Ingrid Thelma Clarke (FS)
(Baken Park Bewaarskool)



Nomfundiso Mdokhwe (GP)
(Rejoice Day Care Centre)



Sinikiwe Ntshangase (KZN)
(Siyakhulasonke Pre-School)



Naledi Seane (NC)
(Mpelega Pre-Primary School)



Kate Kgadi Sekwakwa (LP)
(Amos Mhloana Creche)



Lillian Rumo (MP)
(Isibonelo Nursery School)



Puseletso Malgas (NW)
(Lapologang Creche)

BEST ECD CENTRE

Winners are shown in red.



Diana Davis Creche (EC)
(Jessie Nonqaba Lukwe)



Campus Kids (WC)
(Antoinette Engel)



Lesedi la Mphambo Day Care Centre (FS)
(Charles Mphambo)



Kids Foundation Day Care Centre (GP)
(Tsholofelo Notwala)



Thembeke Day Care (KZN)
(Lethiwe Mkhize)



Katrina Davids (NC)
(Carlentjie Pre-Premier)



Serokonama Early Learning Centre (LP)
(Maria Pilusa)



Rise and Shine (MP)
(Nomsa Mbethe)



Tirelong Early Childhood Development Centre (NW)
(Anna Makgale)

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