

## **REPORT ON ECD IN VIRGINIA FUNDED BY SACBC**

Training Venue: Virginia Catholic Church

Facilitators: Gadi Moloi and Nozi Mosimane

Project: ECD Training for Care Givers

Number of participants: 39

Dates: 16-20 July, 13-17 August, 17-21 September 2012

### **INTRODUCTION**

The course started on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July to 20<sup>th</sup> of July, was held at the Catholic Kroonstad Diocese in Welkom. The attendees are the care givers who are working with children 0-18 years and therefore had to have knowledge on Early Childhood Development. The target number of 39 participants was reached at the second module.



## COURSE CONTENT

The modules that have been covered are,

1<sup>st</sup> Module- Prepare Environment for babies, toddlers and young children. (SAQA ID 244263)

Here participants are taken through the importance of the conducive learning environment both inside and outside and this include:

- a safe and clean space
- learning areas
- Inclusive environment and
- a space to plan.





2<sup>nd</sup> Module-: Demonstrate basic understanding of child development which includes holistic development of a child i.e. (SAQA ID 244258)

Topics covered included:

- Physical development
- Social and emotional development
- Expressing feelings in acceptable ways
- Cognitive development





3<sup>rd</sup> Module-: Interact with babies, toddlers and young children (SAQA ID 244262)

The topic covered under this module included:

- Preparing for play
- Playing with babies
- Exploring with toddlers
- Young children learning together
- A sense of self



## **LEARNER PARTICIPATION**

The participants have been very enthusiastic since the beginning of the training. To most of them the training was an eye opener as they did not know or they were not aware on how children develop and learn. They were able to share their own experiences of their own childhood, the experiences with their own children and also with the children their working with.





## **SITE VISITS**

As part of our program during the training we do site visit where we work with individuals at their working place. This is done mainly to make sure participants have understood the contents and are therefore implementing what they have learned. If participants are experiencing any problems we are able to assist on the spot by demonstrating and doing practically what needs to be done. We observe how they interact with children and help children learn through play, etc

### **The challenges:**

Our trainer, Ms Gadi Moloi together with Ms Rakhetsi and Sr Obey visited the care –givers in the Welkom area and this are the findings

- Most of the families live in small shacks and all unemployed
- In one RDP house live 4 adults and 10 children, all under the age of 13 years, all adults are unemployed and living on child support grant.
- In another shack there are 4 adults and 4 children and only 1 adult has an ID and receive state pension and all the others depend on her money for a living. The others all don't have ID's, no birth certificates as they are from Lesotho.
- In another household a 14 year old boy has been expelled from school due to drug and alcohol abuse, no one has tried to refer him for some kind of professional help.

### **Winburg Visits**

The visits in this area were quite different from the ones in Welkom

1. Children were free to do the activities and were enjoying what they were doing
2. Although the number of children is too high for the number of adults but the care-givers are committed and the interaction between them and the children is very good
3. Safety of the children is observed



### General Comments

The facilitators have reported that the participants have been enthusiastic throughout the training and have taken every session very seriously as they claimed the training is an eye opener for them at work and even personally.

They now know how children develop and learn and what activities are suitable for what age group. They know that children have to be supervised at all times and busy children especially after school don't easily get into trouble.

Every time they look forward to the new module and to learn further. This has also given our trainers strength to also look forward to bring new ideas to the group and change their lives for the better.

### CONCLUSION

It has been a pleasure for us to be working closely with SACBC and making a difference in the lives of these participants and the children that are under their care.

We are therefore ready for more opportunities to assist in any way for the benefit of our communities.

**Oliver Tambo said “the nation that does not look after its children, has no future”**

Let us all hold hands together and build the future of our children through offering quality Early Childhood Development programmes



REPORT COMPILED BY: ALICE PHIRIME (DIRECTOR)