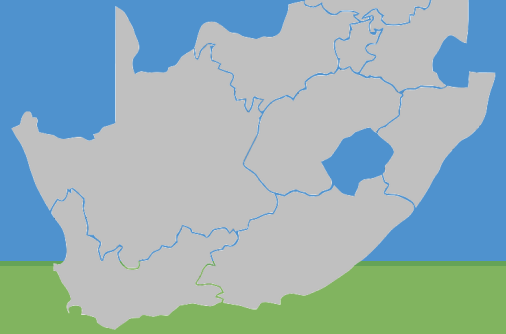


A Guide to Early Childhood Development Programmes in SA



What is an early childhood development programme?

An early childhood development (ECD) programme provides **one or a collection of services and support** to a child and/or caregiver to promote ECD. The programme is structured within an ECD service to provide **learning and support appropriate to the child's development age and stage**. The programme can be offered at, an **ECD centre, Child and Youth Centres** and at **non-centre based** ECD programmes.

Types of ECD programmes : centre based

- **ECD Centre-based** programmes are offered at an ECD centre.
- **Child & Youth Care Centre** programmes are offered at child and youth care centres.

Types of ECD programmes : non - centre based

- **Home based** programmes are offered at the household level to primary caregivers and young children for the purposes of providing info, supporting early stimulation and development, and promoting referrals and linkages to support services
- **Community based** programmes provided at community structures. These could be a clinic, school, traditional authority office, municipal office, community hall or a church. Programs are provided by trained community members and may operate two or three days in a week.
- **Mobile ECD** programmes are offered to children in rural and farming areas without ECD services access. The programme needs a driver and 2 trained ECD practitioners.
- **A playgroup** is a group of young children organised for play or play activities for learning. A playgroup is attended by mothers and supervised by volunteers or paid facilitators.
- **A toy library** provides children and families with access to developmentally appropriate educational play and learning materials. They may offer play and learning sessions, toy-making demonstrations, individual lending and/or lending to other ECD service providers.
- **Outreach ECD** programmes use ECD centres as support for outreach programmes. In outreach ECD programmes, parents/caregivers are equipped with skills to promote parental/caregiver involvement in stimulation of their children regardless of their level of education.
- **Child minding** is a programme for a maximum of six children in the care of a person during the day as arranged by the primary care giver.

➤ **Currently in operation in North West**