



THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. That is why understanding the need to invest in very young children is so important, so as to maximize their future well-being.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres are important in communities as they **help to prepare young children for primary school education**. Speaking on the matter, the early childhood project manager at Letcee, Poonam Dwarkaram, said: “Research shows that 80% of the child's brain is developed by the age of five”.

JBay College is the only tertiary learning institution in Jeffreys Bay. The focus is on community development and providing an opportunity for learners who do not have access to the required funding to attend training in urban areas and to be able to enter the job market after completion of their course. Visits to all the local high schools were received positively and matric learners showed great interest in training in the Early Childhood Development sector. Strong relationships were formed with guidance teachers at these schools and they welcome future visits and presentations.

We offer the following qualifications:

Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner

NQF Level 4 Certificate Course , 131 Credits, SAQA: 97542. This is a one year course.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

This is an entry-level Qualification for those who want to enter the field of Education, Training

and Development, specifically within the sub-field of Early Childhood Development (ECD).

Many of those who will seek this Qualification are already practising within the field, but

without formal recognition. This Qualification will enable recipients of this Qualification to facilitate the all-round development of young children in a manner that is sensitive to culture and individual needs (including special needs), and enable them to provide quality early childhood development services for children in a variety of contexts, including community-based services, ECD centres, at home and in institutions. In particular, recipients of this qualification will be able to:

- Plan and prepare for Early Childhood Development.
- Facilitate and monitor the development of babies, toddlers and young children.
- Provide care and support to babies, toddlers and young children.

Practitioners will generally carry out their role under supervision and with the support of designed programmes. This Qualification will provide a means for formal recognition of those who are already practising in the field, but without qualifications, as well as for those who wish to enter the field. This qualification will also provide a basis for further professional development in the higher education and training band for many experienced practitioners in the field who have had limited or difficult access to further career development opportunities.

OTHER INFORMATION AND FEE STRUCTURES

- ✓ Registration: R 1 800
- ✓ Tuition: R 1 200 x 10
- ✓ Graduation fees: R 500
- ✓ Printing of course material: Students own responsibility
- ✓ Proof hours practical work to be submitted to lecturer

Occupational Certificate: School Principal (School Manager)

NQF Level 6 Certificate Course, 285 Credits, SAQA: 101258. This is a two year course.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

The purpose of the qualification is to:

- Provide access to a recognised educator qualification at Level 7 for ECD educators who have a Level 4 or Level 5 certificate in ECD, providing a bridge between non-formal and formal learning programmes.
- To enable educators/ learners to plan and implement a learning programme which is based on their knowledge of child development from birth to nine years and which helps children in a specific phase work towards achieving the learning outcomes of the national school curriculum (where appropriate).
- To improve community-based ECD services for young children by raising the level of ECD teaching competence and/or by providing opportunities for training in support and leadership roles.

LEARNING ASSUMED TO BE IN PLACE AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

In order to achieve the exit outcomes of this qualification, learners need the knowledge and skills equivalent to NQF Level 4.

OTHER INFORMATION AND FEE STRUCTURES

- ✓ Registration: R 2 500
- ✓ Tuition: R 1 200 x 20
- ✓ Graduation fees: R 500
- ✓ Printing of course material: Students own responsibility
- ✓ Proof hours practical work to be submitted to lecturer

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION

- ✓ Copy of unabridged birth certificate/ID document
- ✓ Copy of highest qualification
- ✓ Copy of ID of account payer
- ✓ Proof of payment for registration fee
- ✓ Copy of three months bank statements
- ✓ Copy of proof of bank account of account payer
- ✓ Proof of residence