

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

QUESTIONS TO ECD EDUCATORS AND PRINCIPALS

Background

TIC21: Practitioner, 37, Tshwane, Inner city centre, busy with Level 4 FETC:ECD

In the questionnaire which you completed, you indicated that you want to do Diploma in ECCE. I would like to ask you some further questions about your responses in the questionnaire to gain a better understanding of your work situation, challenges and aspirations as an ECD practitioner.

Q 1: *Why did you decide to become and ECD practitioner?*

TIC21: I love working with kids, playing with children and teaching them. It's easier teaching smaller kids...when they are old it is going to be harder.

R: *When did you start working as a practitioner*

TIC21: I started in 2013.

R: *And what were you doing before that?*

TIC21: I was a domestic worker before.

Q 2: *You indicated a number of reasons for wanting to do the Diploma in ECCE. I would like to ask you to tell me a little more about why you selected these response categories.*

R: *You selected the response category: "To become a better practitioner." Could you please clarify why you selected this response?*

TIC21: I want to know more about child development. It will help me to understand how to develop a child - all the skills; how to develop motor skills (such as] gross motor-skills and fine motor-skills...[trails off- inaudible].

R: *You also indicated that you want to do the Diploma in ECCE to build a career in ECCE. What would you like to achieve in your ECCE career?*

TIC21: If I can do the Diploma and maybe the degree...like, I can open my own centre in Hammanskraal and then create more jobs for other people and teach others who work for me.

- R:** *Is there a need for more centres in Hammanskraal?*
- TIC21:** There's still need for centres there because there are a lot of kids. I worked in Hammanskraal before. It was a lot of us at work so the salary was little. She had to pay us all and it was hard for her. She had about 101 kids. That one...there was a lot of us and the department didn't want her to have more than 50 kids, so she had to retrench. We were too many practitioners then.
- R:** *I suppose not all the parents could pay.*
- TIC21:** Yes, that was the problem, because some of the parents couldn't pay, but if they can't pay you can't say anything. You can't turn the kids away because the parents don't have the money.
- R:** *And the situation you are working in now, is it better and where is it?*
- TIC21:** It is in Pretoria. This one is better, the salary is better and the parents are working, most of them, because it's a private crèche. Everything is nice.
- R:** *And what area is it in Pretoria? Is it in the city, in a suburb or in a township?*
- TIC21:** It's in the city.
- R:** *And is the principal the owner?*
- TIC21:** No, it is a private creche, but I think the principal is employed by them.
- R:** *You also ticked the response for becoming permanently employed, but when you completed the questionnaire, you were in Hammanskraal. Are you permanently employed now?*
- TIC21:** No, I am still completing my FETC: ECD Level 4 at Matthew Goniwe. I started last of last year, but now because of the virus [Covid 19] it has stopped. When I finish, maybe I will be permanent.
- Q 3:** *You selected a number of indicators for what makes an ECD educator a professional. I would like to ask you to tell me a little more about why you selected these response categories.*
- R:** *You ticked the box that says: "Obtaining a qualification that is described in MRQECDE." Why do you think this is important for being a professional?*
- TIC21:** Because I think if we have a level 4, all of us, so we'll have all the information, or we don't have much more information. So, we must get all the knowledge that we can, of which the level 4 is maybe not enough for us.
- R:** *You have indicated that you consider yourself a professional. What does that mean to you?*
- TIC21:** ECD at first was not a profession, it was like you just go to the crèche and work, at first. Now the government announced that you must have Level 4 at least for you to teach in ECD. Not everybody takes ECD [practitioners] as a professional. Experience and qualification makes you a professional. The qualification is a bonus.
- R:** *Are there other things that make you a professional too?*
- TIC21:** Yes, talking with parents. Because obviously parents will come to you. They want to know about the development of the child. Even if you can see a problem with the child, you have to

go to the principal and report to the principal. Obviously, you have to give feedback to the parents and the principle because you are the one who is watching the child.

R: *Do you think having one of the higher education qualifications as described in MRQECDE will change the status of the work that ECCE practitioners do, so that everyone considers ECD practitioners as professional?*

TIC21: I think so, maybe they can be put the same status as the teacher, because they're also teachers. They're the first teacher before they [the children] go to the big school.

Q 4: *Does the Day care centre get a subsidy from the DSD?*

TIC21: No, I don't think so.

Q 5: *What is the main source of income for the centre/who pays your salary?*

TIC21: The school pays the salaries from the parent fees.

R: *How many practitioners work there?*

TIC21: We are 5 practitioners. It's 6 classes. 0-3 is two classes.

Q 6: *What changes do you think the MRQECDE policy is bringing to the ECD sector?*

TIC21: Now you must have a level 4 to teach in ECD, but I think the policy will change that. Maybe we will have to have one of those qualifications from the policy.

R: *How would you feel about it if that were the case?*

TIC21: It will be very hard for some practitioners and it will take a long time and some will never get it..

Q7: *How do you think the Government can further support the ECD education sector?*

TIC21 Just to give more money for ECD. There are many children who need day care and the centres are struggling, like in Hammanskraal where parents can't pay, not even R50.

R: *So, you are saying the subsidy is not enough to cover all the needs that a centre has?*

TIC21: No, it is not enough. The children must have food and the principal must pay salaries and electricity.

Q8: *Do you have any questions you would like to ask?*

TIC21: So, if you have a bachelor [degree], can you go to a school?

R: *You can't go and work in a school with this ECCE degree. The ECCE is especially for birth to 4. It's the first time that there are these qualifications at a higher level for people working in birth to 4. Not for Gr R and Foundation Phase.*