

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

QUESTIONS TO ECD EDUCATORS AND PRINCIPALS TRAINERS

TS11: Mamelodi, suburb – Day care centre, 42 yrs old, female, owner and principal, coloured

In the questionnaire which you completed, you indicated that you want to do a BED 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?*

TS 11: My mother started a day care centre at home, so that's where it started.

R: *I see you first did a Diploma in Teaching?*

TS11: I started doing a Diploma in teaching at TUT, but I changed to do ECD. Now I have an Educare Diploma.

R: *Did you do this part time and still manage to work with your mother?*

TS11: Yes, I went to classes, but my mother got an assistant to help her, just like a helper.

R: *And how old were you when you did the qualification?*

TS11: I was 25 when I finished

R: *Would you rather have done something different when you left school?*

TS11: I thought I wanted to be a secretary and work in an office, but my mother needed me to help and then it became a business, so it was ok.

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

R: *Firstly, you indicated that you wanted to become a better practitioner. Why did you select that particular response?*

- TS11:** I have a good centre and the parents like to send their kids here and I have 3 qualified practitioners working for me, but I think I need to have a higher qualification. So, it is to be able to show, uhm... teach the practitioners, because I am the principle. It will make my centre better and we can help the kids to be ready for Gr R.
- R:** *You also indicated that you want to build a career in ECCE. How will having a BEd degree in ECCE help you in this regard.*
- TS11:** Well, I like that there is a degree for birth to four years old, because we need a Diploma for Gr R or a degree for Foundation Phase. So now we are no longer taking those kids because we heard this from the ECD forum. But kids need, uhm... be prepared for Gr R and school and we can help to develop their skills and talking and so on. I want to know all about this age.
- R:** *Are saying is that you want to specialise in developing younger children so that they are ready for Gr R? Is that the only way in which the ECCE degree will benefit you?*
- TS11:** Yes, exactly I will specialise, but also the parents will know that I have a degree and in the community that will be something that is, uhm...like they will know that we are also teachers, but just for little children.
- R:** *I notice also ticked the response for earning status and respect for the work you do. Can you tell me more about how you feel about the way in which people view ECD educators?*
- TS11:** The parents who send their kids to my centre appreciate us and they are happy when the school says that the kids are ready for Gr R, but some just want us to look after the children and they take us like babysitters. Also, some ECD centres don't do things right and they don't have qualifications and then it gives us a bad name.
- 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:** *I noticed that you selected responses that have to do with knowledge about theory and practice and the curriculum or programme for ECCE and how to implement it. Why do you consider this an indicator of a professional ECD practitioner?*
- TS11:** We are using the NCF in my centre, but we need more training to use it well. If you are professional, you know your field and you can talk to colleagues about what you do in your centre and share ideas.
- R:** *Where do you find opportunities to share ideas with other ECD educators?*
- TS11:** In the ECD forum for my area and at other meetings and in workshops.
- R:** *You also selected the response about obtaining a qualification that is described in MRQECDE. Do you think this is a necessary requirement for being a professional?*
- TS11:** No, I think you can be professional even if you don't have one of those higher qualifications, but if you want to know more and to be a specialist, you need it.
- R:** *So, if I understand you correctly, you already consider you a professional, but having a BEd ECCE qualification will make you more professional?*

- TS11:** Yes, I am professional because I run my centre well and I treat my staff and the parents with respect.
- R:** *You also ticked the response that said, “Continually improving knowledge and understanding of your work by undergoing training”. Why do you consider this an important aspect of being a professional?*
- TS11:** You need to be up to date with what is going on in ECD, like learning through play...we learn about this and other things at workshops.
- Q 4:** *Does the Day care centre get a subsidy from the DSD?*
- TS 11:** Yes, we do, but only from last year. I had to make a lot of changes to get registered, like the small toilets and a room for changing the babies.
- R:** *That must have been expensive. Do you think the expense will be worth it in the long run and why?*
- TS11:** Yes, I think so, because the subsidy helps a lot, especially with the salaries.
- Q 5:** *I see that you indicated your income is from parent fees and the DSD. Do most of the parents pay fees?*
- TS11:** All the parents must pay school fees, but now I can charge less for those kids who get a subsidy.
- Q 6:** *What changes do you think the MRQECDE policy is bringing to the ECD sector?*
- TS11:** It will help to make us like teachers, because we will have diplomas and degrees from a university.
- R:** *So, do you mean your work will be seen as a profession in the same way a teacher’s work is seen as a profession? Why is that important to you?*
- TS11:** I think the government, with this policy, is trying to bring us closer to teachers and perhaps they will, like, build centres and things like that.
- Q 7:** **How do you think the Government can further support the ECD education sector?**
- TS11:** Like I said, maybe they can build centres for us to use. There is a need for centres in our communities, but practitioners struggle to get registered because there is a lot that you need for that.
- Q 8:** **Thank you for your time and is there anything you would like to ask about the qualifications?**
- JT11:** No, because as you said there will be NSFAS to study, I think I will not have a problem.