

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

QUESTIONS TO ECD EDUCATORS AND PRINCIPALS

Background

ETS21, 49 practitioner, Day care (NPO) (Did not understand registration requirements. In fact not registered.)

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?*

ETS21: I always had that passion of working with children. Before I was doing home-based care for patients or old people, but it was only now and then. I did a course in home-based care for HIV/AIDS patients. Then I applied at this day care and got accepted.

R: *How old were you when you started working at the day care centre?*

ETS21: I was 41 years old.

R: *And did you then start with ECD training?*

ETS21: Yes, I did level 4.

Q 2: *You indicated a number of reasons for wanting to do the BEd 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: "Use the opportunity to build a career in ECCE." Could you please clarify why you selected this response?*

ETS21: It is my dream to open my own centre.

R: *How do you think the Diploma in ECCE will help you to achieve your ambition? What are you hoping it will do for you?*

ETS21: Having a degree will help me to do things differently and have higher standards than other day care centres and people will respect my centre. There is high competition in this area and we all have level 4.

- R:** *Do you think it will matter to the parents if you have a degree?*
- ETS21:** [Laughing]. No, it won't, but if they hear and know that my centre has a high standard ddthey will send their children to my day care.
- R:** Do you implement the NCF or do you use a different curriculum?
- ETS21:** We use the Smart Start way programme.
- R:** *I notice that you ticked the response for earning a better salary as one of the reasons for want to do a BEd ECCE. How do you think having a Degree in ECCE will improve your salary?*
- ETS21:** We have to do fundraising and ask for donations from businesses because there is a lot of unemployment here and the parents can't all pay. If the donors know that our centre has a high standard and I have a degree and we develop the children, we will get more donations and support from businesses. Then the principal can pay me better because the donations help the centre and we don't have to buy everything.
- R:** *What kinds of donations or support do you get at present?*
- ETS21:** The Bread Box gives us lunch boxes for the children and sometimes businesses will donate some books and toys for the children or playground equipment.
- R:** *You also selected the response category: "To become a better practitioner." Could you please clarify why you selected this response*
- ETS21:** Because I'll be having a degree and have more knowledge about teaching young children. Level 4 taught me lot of things can do, but a degree will teach me more.
- 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 have also indicated in the questionnaire that continually improving knowledge and understanding of your work by undergoing training is what makes a practitioner as professional. Why do you think this is important?*
- ETS21:** I have that level 4, but I still need more. There are new things that we can learn. We have an ECD forum here in Kathlehong and we get people to do workshops for us so we can learn more. And now I want to go further and do the degree.
- R:** *The other response that you ticked and that I am interested in is the one about registering with a professional body. What does that mean to you and why is it important in terms of being a professional?*
- ETS21:** Like teachers register with SACE and they can't abuse the children because they will de-register them and they will lose their jobs. It is a good thing that they have that control and practitioners will know they can't just do as they like at their centres.
- R:** *You have indicated that you are not sure if you are a professional. Why is that?*
- ETS21:** Because I don't have a higher qualification and I don't belong to a professional body, like the school teachers who are taken as professionals.

- R:** *So, if you do the BEd ECCE and you register with SACE, because ECD practitioners can now register with SACE, do you think you will then be a professional?*
- ETS21:** Yes, I think so, because I will have a degree.
- Q 4:** *I see that Day care is registered with the Department of Social Development, but you have not ticked the box for receiving a subsidy*
- ETS21:** We are still applying. Right now, we are waiting for the Health Certificate.
- R:** So, you are not registered with DSD yet?
- ETS 21:** No, we are waiting for that Health certificate.
- Q 5:** *You have indicated that the DSD and an NGO pays your salary Can you please explain how that works?*
- ETS21:** No, my salary is from the Day care, not the government. The parents pay the fees.
- Q 6:** *What changes do you think the MRQECDE policy is bringing to the ECD sector?*
- ETS21:** We are still using the old ways, but these qualifications will help us to change and to work better, especially with the Gr RR children.
- Q 7:** *How do you think the Government can further support the ECD education sector?*
- ETS21:** They can pay for the Gr RR children (the 4-year-olds) to attend our centres and not take those kids to the schools, because that is taking the children away from the ECDs.
- Q 8:** *Thank you for taking the time to talk to me and answer my questions. I enjoyed our conversation. Is there anything you would like to ask about doing the qualifications?*
- ETS21:** Will there be a bursary and how long is the time to finish the degree?
- R:** *You will be eligible for NSFAS funding if you are accepted by a university and a part time degree usually takes about 6 years.*
- ETS21:** [Exclaims] No, that is too long. I will be too old. I think I must do the Diploma.