

## INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

### QUESTIONS TO ECD EDUCATORS AND PRINCIPALS

**JIS14: Lenasia – day care centre, 2.5yrs owner and principal, includes Grade R, 35 yrs old.**

In the questionnaire which you completed, you indicated that you want to do a 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:** *Firstly, can you tell me why you decided to become an ECD practitioner?*

I first did a social auxiliary worker qualification, but I did not get a job with the DSD. Then I decided to work in a crèche and from there I did the FETC level 4.

*How old were you when you started working at the crèche?*

**JIS14:** I was 28.

**Q2:** **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:** *Firstly, you indicated that you wanted to become a better practitioner. Why did you select that particular response?*

**JIS14:** We must make sure the children are ready for Grade R or Grade 1 at Primary School – they must be well-developed. A higher qualification will give me more knowledge on how to develop children.

**R:** *You also indicated that you want to build a career in ECCE. How will having a Diploma in ECCE help you in this regard.*

**JIS14:** Parents will know that I am a qualified practitioner and will be happy to send their children to my daycare. They will know that their children will get good development. And I will be able to train the others who are assisting me while they wait to get their qualifications and teach them what to do with the children.

- R:** *Yes, I understand. You will be able to mentor the assistants that you employ and it will help your centre to get a reputation for offering a quality ECCE service.*
- R:** You didn't tick the response that said the reason for doing a higher education qualification is **to earn a better salary**. However, I see that you indicated your income from parent fees only and it is only between R800 and R1000.
- So, am I correct in understanding that you don't expect to get a better salary if you have a professional qualification?*
- JIS14:** I can say, I do need more money for my day care, because many parents can't pay and I can't just tell them your kid can't come. But if my day care can grow and get more children, then maybe more parents can pay.
- R:** *So, what I am hearing you say is that you want to build a good reputation for your centre by offering a good service, but you are not sure that it will bring in more money, because most parents can't pay.*
- JIS14:** Exactly, there is a lot of unemployment, but people are trying...
- R:** *The other reason you gave for wanting to do a Diploma in ECCE is to specialize in the care and education of the birth-to-four child. Why this age and not 5 and 6-year-olds?*
- JIS14:** I think I can also teach Grade R if I have this Diploma and it will give me more knowledge. Most [practitioners] have a Level 4, and I can say that my level 4 qualification gave me 90% of what I need to know, but a higher qualification will be still better.
- R:** *Actually, you can't teach Grade R with this qualification. It is only for birth to four.*
- JIS14:** I didn't know, but I like the younger kids very much.
- R:** *It is good to hear that there are practitioners who want to stay in the birth to four Sector.*
- Q3:** *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.*
- You indicated "care, compassion, kindness and love for children", "Dedication and commitment to the work you do, including putting the children's interests above your own". Why are those reasons important to you?*
- JIS14:** You must be able to work with any type of child that you come across and keep confidentiality about those children's problems. You are doing this for the love of the children and community... If you don't have that love for the work you won't do this job.
- R:** *You also selected continually improving knowledge and understanding of your work by undergoing training. Why do you think that is important.*
- JIS14:** If you want to move up in this work, you need to keep studying.
- R:** *Is that why you consider yourself a professional ECD practitioner?*

**JIS14:** Yes, and because I am show that love for the kids.

**Q4:** *I see your centre is registered with the DSD. Have you applied for the subsidy because that will be a big help?*

**JIS14:** Yes, I want to apply, but my Day care is in my garage... But I am conditionally registered.

**R:** I see, so you are still trying to meet the registration requirements.

**Q5:** *What is the main source of income for the centre?*

**JIS14:** Some parents pay fees.

**Q6:** *What changes do you think the MRQECDE policy is bringing to the ECD sector?*

**JIS14:** I think it is giving us more qualifications, and maybe they will take us as teachers.

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

The Government can assist with giving money to make our centres like they want it, even the equipment.

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

**JIS14:** No, I don't have anything I want to ask.