

Isibindi Early Childhood Development Program

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Isibindi ECD Programme

- Five interactive core components
 - Integrating stimulation in lifespace work
 - Structured home visits and stimulation plan
 - Cluster workshops for gogo's/caregivers
 - Playgroup for children under 6 years
 - Safe Park activities for children under 6 years

Introduction of ECD training to CYCWs

- ❑ Accredited ECD training (2009)
- ❑ Research findings
 - Centre based approach
 - Confusion on professional identity
- ❑ Research recommendations
 - Blending ECD to CYCW

Need for customized training to equip CYCW's to provide ECD

- In the life-space
- In the safe park
- With caregivers/gogo's
- Through play resources
 - through resources
 - with caregivers/gogo's
- ❑ Structured non-centre based Isibindi ECD programme
- ❑ ECD training provider

Baseline Research Conclusions (2012)

- ❑ CYCWs had some basic knowledge of ECD
- ❑ Data collection was inadequate for under 6 children
- ❑ Meeting the health, social and educational issues were addressed by CYCWs
- ❑ Some of the ECD needs of children, particularly the psycho-social needs were met
- ❑ Integration of early stimulation activities was not evident in caregiving tasks
- ❑ Involvement of the caregivers in structured early stimulation activities in homes was largely absent
- ❑ There was a gap in focused activities for ECD children in the safe parks

Post-training Evaluation Research

- ❑ ECD training lead to the improved quality of activities undertaken by the CYCW's
- ❑ There was a noticeable change in awareness and practice both in home visits and Safe Parks
- ❑ ECD training is a key factor in some of the improvement noted
- ❑ Training built confidence in engaging in activities, a change in attitude as well as gaining of new knowledge and skills

Research recommendations on next steps

- ❑ Blend ECD language with CYC language
- ❑ Minimum standards and practice guidelines for the ECD Programme
- ❑ Increasing numbers of children served by CYCW's
- ❑ Integration of ECD programme in CYC routine
- ❑ M&E forms
- ❑ Use research data for mentor in-service training

Challenges

- ❑ Lack of uniformity in implementation of the program amongst CYCW's, Isibindi Projects and provinces
- ❑ Understanding the fit – structured programme vs lifespace work.
- ❑ Integration of ECD into lifespace work - how to train? how to assess?
- ❑ Designing appropriate data collecting tools
- ❑ Making all the five components sing together
- ❑ Creating synergy with the five components

Responses to Challenges

- ❑ Plan a systematic integration of the different components of the model according to the developmental stage of the different Isibindi projects. Develop a phased in approach of the different component of the model.
- ❑ Refine and develop a structured ECD training program to fit the model developed. The training needs to allow for the incremental training of the different components and the integrated model.
- ❑ Finalise the indicators and data collection tools for each component and the integrated model. This will assist with evaluation.

Responses to Challenges continued

- ❑ The issues of workforce development should be discussed and debated : should we develop an exit strategy for C&YCW in the ECD sector or should we develop ECD as a specialization of C&YCW at the auxiliary or professional levels or both?
- ❑ In developing ECD programs in rural areas more effective use of the Isibindi Safe Parks by the ECD sector. Responsive to the challenges of lack of infrastructure and isolation of projects, typical in rural under-resourced areas.
- ❑ Ongoing discussions and partnerships with ECD sector.

What has worked?

- ❑ CYCW's are more effectively engaged with under-6s
- ❑ “Intentional” stimulation in lifespace
- ❑ Pockets of successful integrated implementation
- ❑ Stories, pictures, data, videos
- ❑ Research, documentation and materials for case studies
- ❑ Guideline document on ECD within Isibindi





