



NACCW

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS



ISIBINDI
CREATING CIRCLES OF CARE

Isibindi Early Childhood Development Program Zeni Thumbadoo

Introduction

- Isibindi
 - Home visiting program
 - Child and youth care work
 - Focus on OVC
 - Safe Park Model
- Data – 21% - 11018 ECD children (April-September 2013)
- Need to strengthen the focus on under 6 children
- Special ECD program designed, piloted and researched

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

- through structured programs during home visits

- with caregivers/gogo's

- through play groups

- in the safe parks

- Structured non-centre based Isibindi ECD programme

- ECD training provider – ELRU

Baseline Research Conclusions (2012)

- CYCWs had some basic knowledge of ECD
- Data collection was inadequate for under 6 children
- The health, social and educational issues were addressed by CYCWs
- 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

- ELRU 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
- ELRU 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
- Develop a minimum standards and practice guidelines for the ECD Programme
- Increasing numbers of children served by CYCW's
- Integration of ECD programme in CYC routine
- Develop appropriate data collection tools
- Use research data to develop case studies for 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
- Creating synergy with the five components

Challenges

- Understanding workforce development in the welfare sector
- Practice Realities
 - Rural, distance, space
 - Poverty

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
- Partnerships: Khululeka, ELRU, DGMT
- Research, documentation and materials for case studies
- Guideline document on ECD within Isibindi

















