



ECD Census 2021

because children count

ECD CENSUS 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

The Department of Basic Education in partnership with the LEGO Foundation commissioned the first Early Childhood Development (ECD) Census to collect data on all Early Learning Programmes (ELPs) in the country. The data will facilitate a better understanding of the ECD landscape in South Africa and inform more targeted resource allocation to improve outcomes.

Data was collected between **August 2021** and **February 2022**



R509 MEAN MONTHLY FEE charged by MOST ELPs

62% allow at least **SOME CHILDREN** to attend **FREE**



42,420 Early Learning Programmes



1,660,316 Children enrolled



198,361 Staff employed



33% of ELPs receive subsidies from the **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)**

40% are **REGISTERED** or **CONDITIONALLY REGISTERED** with DSD

FUNDING SOURCES
69% FEES
27% GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES
4% DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING ETC.



84% of ELPs provide **BREAKFAST**

94% of ELPs provide **LUNCH**

73% have access to a **TAP ON THE PREMISES**

60% have a **FLUSH TOILET**

86% are housed in a **FORMAL STRUCTURE**

60% enrolled in **URBAN AREAS**

40% enrolled in **RURAL AREAS**

39 CHILDREN per ELP



4.7 STAFF MEMBERS per ECD programme

3.9 TEACHING STAFF per ECD programme

52% of teaching STAFF have a relevant **NQF QUALIFICATION**

22% of teaching staff have **NO QUALIFICATION**

30 MINS OR LESS FREE PLAY PER DAY

54% as part of **DAILY PROGRAMME**

45% in the form of **OUTDOOR PLAY**

34% of ELPs **DO NOT HAVE ACCESS** to an outdoor playground with **SUITABLE EQUIPMENT**



77% of ELPs have **SOME CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

61% have at least **10 BOOKS**

ONLY **56%** have **AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS** for different age groups

For a detailed report, or more information, visit www.education.gov.za/ECDcensus.aspx



Basic Education
Social Development

The **LEGO** Foundation



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