

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 100

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 27/09/2024

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14—2024

100. Ms N S Du Plessis (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

Whether her department will implement a (a) solution-driven thinking and (b) self-empowerment into Early Childhood Development curriculum like in South Korea and Brazil instead of focusing on reading for meaning only (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (i) how and (ii) what are the further relevant details?

NATIONAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

ORAL REPLY

QUESTION 100

Response

In 2015, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) developed the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for children from birth to four to guide ECD practitioners on the development and provision of **quality** early learning programmes for all children. The NCF embraces the values of a seamless coherent early learning system from birth to nine years and allows for the transition to Grade R and the National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement for the Foundation Phase (CAPS).

The NCF builds on the National Early Learning and Development Standards (NELDS) and sets local standards for children's early learning and development outcomes. NELDS promotes an integrated approach which includes all the different skills, knowledge and abilities that children are expected and encouraged to attain in the different domains of their development.

The desired results of the NELDS include:

1. Children are learning how to think critically, solve problems and form concepts.
2. Children are becoming more aware of themselves as individuals, developing a positive self-image and learning how to manage their own behaviour.
3. Children are demonstrating a growing awareness of diversity and the need to respect and care for others.
4. Children are learning to communicate effectively and use language confidently.
5. Children are learning about mathematical concepts.
6. Children are beginning to demonstrate physical and motor abilities and an understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

The NELDS are therefore encouraging solution-driven thinking (desired result 1) and self-empowerment (desired result 2), as well as the comprehensive set of foundational learning areas that are age and developmentally-appropriate.