



TRAINING TO BECOME AN ECD PRACTITIONER/EDUCATOR

The Children's Act 38 of 2005 as amended, states that all staff at ECD centres should be trained formally. Numerous colleges and other organisations offer a variety of courses. The following are two important questions that play a role in choosing a suitable course: What is the content of the course and has the course been accredited by the accreditation authority concerned?

When the content of the course is evaluated, it is important to know what the typical task of the ECD practitioner/educator entails. The tasks are:

- Develop pre-school children in the classroom as well as on the playground
- Select educational material to address development needs of children
- Coordinate activities to develop large motor skills of pre-school children
- Develop language skills through stories, songs and discussions
- Create a safe environment where children can play and develop
- Discuss progress of children with carers
- Be able to act immediately when a child is hurt and handle other emergencies.

The following qualifications have been approved in the National Qualification Framework (NQF):

- FET Certificate in Early Childhood Development (NQF level 4)
- Diploma in Early Childhood Development (NQF level 5)
- Advanced Certificate in ECD – Foundation phase and ECD (NQF level 6)



Various colleges and other organisations offer courses that can be accredited or non-accredited with a Seta. The following is a list of some organisations and the courses they offer:

- Huguenot College, Wellington:

FET Certificate in Early Childhood Development (NQF level 4) – accredited by ETDP Seta

- This is a 1-year full-time programme
- The course entails a 6-month theoretical training by facilitators and
- 6 months of compulsory workplace experience for practical training
- Students must preferably be in possession of a Senior Certificate (Grade 12)

- Grassroots

NQF Level 1

- Course is for persons without Matric Certificates
- Accredited training for Caring of Babies and Toddlers 1-3 years



- UNISA:

Programme for Educators in ECD (qualification code: 7029-7)

- For educators of 3-6-year pre-school children
 - Course is presented in English, but papers may be answered in Afrikaans
 - Duration of course is 1 year
 - Course consists of 4 Modules
 - Cost of course is approximately R6 000-00
 - ITEC (ITEC is a non-profit organisation that operates in the Eastern Cape)
 - Skills Development for ECD Educators
 - Offers training for persons without a matric qualification
 - Course duration is a minimum of 24 months
- TREE Training : Durban, Port Shepstone, Ladysmith and Zululand
 - Offers NQF level 4 certificate – 145 credits
 - READ ECD training:
 - NKQF level 4 accredited training - 56 credits
 - Wonder Kids Training Institute (KZN/Gauteng):
 - National Diploma in ECD – NQF Level 5 and Level 4 FET Certificate
 - Course cost amounts to R22 000 for NQF Level 5 and R19 000 NQF Level 4
 - NQF Level 4 training lasts 18 months while NQF Level 5 training lasts 24 months
 - Training is on Saturdays
 - 1 Term Practical training



- EDUTAK Pre-school Training and Development (Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West)
 - EDUTAK offers accredited training (ETDP 9995)
 - Training takes place in Silverton
 - Course takes 12 months
 - Contact number 012 803 6424

- Learning for Sustainability
 - The content is a Maria Montessori-based Training (AMI)
 - Formal NQF Level 4 certificate takes 12 months
 - Formal NQF Level 5 certificate takes 24 months
 - Contact Ross van Niekerk 021 881 3196