



Social Development

Department:
Social Development
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN



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VISION

A caring, humane and developed society.

MISSION

To provide equitable, integrated and quality sustainable social development services in partnership with all stakeholders to eradicate poverty, protect vulnerable groups in communities of Mpumalanga.



Toll free number
0800 20 40 98

CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN

BACKGROUND

The objective of the programme is to design and implement integrated programmes and services that provide for the development, care and protection of the rights of children. Provision of services to children is informed by the Children Act 38 of 2005 as amended.

A Child in terms of the Children's Act means a person under the age of 18 years.

Provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services is one of the key activities within the programme. An ECD Centre refers to: **(any building or premises maintained or used, whether or not for gain, for the admission, protection and temporary care of more than six children away from their parents. Depending on registration, an ECD centre can admit babies, toddlers and/or pre-school aged children).**

The Department of Social Development has the responsibility of providing support to ECD centres in order to ensure that they do comply with Norms and Standards as spelt out in the Children's Act which will in turn ensure that the children who are in ECD centres are safe. The support that is provided is as follows: The focus is on the following:

Registration of Early Childhood Development Centres

The Children's act requires that ALL ECD centres catering for children 0-4years whether private or community based MUST register with the Department of Social Development.

Application for registration is therefore lodged with the local office that will then inspect the Centre to determine if it does meet the minimum norms and standards.

Depending on the outcome of the assessment a certificate is then issued spelling out the details of the registration and conditions if any.

Funding of ECD Centres

Depending on the budget available the department provides subsidy to the children who are in ECD centres who meet who fall within the set means test, which is calculated as follows

- If the parents/ guardian have 1 Child: the total combined income of both parents/guardian should be less than R1800.00 per month
- If the parents/ guardian have 2 children at the ECD centre: the total combined income of both parents should be less than R2020.00 per month
- If the parents/ guardian have 3 children at the ECD centre: the total combined income of both parents should be less than R2240.00 per month

If the parents/ guardian have 4 children at the ECD centre: the total combined income of both parents should be less than R2460.00 per month:

The subsidy is further broken down as follows:

- **50%** for nutrition (buying food for the children)
- **30%** for stipends, and
- **20%** for administration.

It needs to be noted that registration does not necessarily mean that an ECD Centre will be funded.

Monitoring of ECD Centres

Over and above the registration and funding of the ECD centres, the Department has dedicated staff that monitor that ECD centres on a monthly basis. The monitoring is done to ensure that the required standard is adhered to at all times and to identify areas where there is support needed. It is our view that if we have to give children the best start in life it has to start at the ECD centres, hence we want to ensure that there is continuous communication that takes place between Social Development and all ECD Centres so that problems can be identified and addressed early before they can impact on the children.