The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) conducted an assessment in 27 Day Care Centres across the country (Mahe, Praslin and La Digue) from 11th-20th February 2019 with the aim of establishing the quality status of services being provided in all Day Care Centres.

This study was carried out in two parts: (i) The baseline assessment of the quality of day care service provision in collaboration with SEED Institute, Singapore and (ii) a survey exploring the characteristics of day care operators and the perspectives of parents accessing day care services. This Factsheet presents the results from the Baseline Assessment.
### Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some centres are overcrowded inspite of adhering to Group Size standards.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teacher : Child Ratio</strong> standard specifies the maximum number of children each teacher should take care of, but this is not consistently observed across the different centers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently, no educational qualification or prior knowledge of early childhood is required for Day Care staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • High amount of juices and processed foods in snacks brought from home
• Sanitation, Diaper Change, Handwashing Standards are not properly enforced
• Most centers do not have First Aid trained staff |
| • Some centres require major upkeep, maintenance and renovation
• The physical space in many centres is not designed to be conducive for Day Care services’ workflow and supervision
• Enough space is not allocated based on different needs of different age groups
• Many centres are not well ventilated or well lit |
| • One-way, instructional communication observed between teachers and students
• Children are left crying for prolonged periods |
| • Day Care Centre Staff are not aware of or using the National documents. E.g.: Seychelles Early Learning Framework which presents ideas for planning work with young children and ELDAs (developmental areas)
• Often staff do not plan for the work with younger children in advance |

### Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards need to be updated to reflect group size together with Space Norms for different age groups of children.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Standards need to be updated, contextualised and made consistent with international best practice
• Regular monitoring and evaluation of standards need to be carried out to ensure consistent service delivery across centres |
| There is an urgent need to train operators and staff. |
| Health and Safety standards need to be reviewed and made more stringent for Food Handling, Serving and Storage for children. |
| Centres need to reorganize and redesign their space. in keeping with space norms that reflect different needs of different age groups. |
| More Professional Development workshops to be organized in order to enhance staff - children interactions and supervision. |
| • Day Care Operators and staff need to have access to and knowledge about National Documents
• Administrative records need to be available on site |

This assessment has provided us with a baseline which will guide the Institute, together with its partners, to implement the above recommendations. Works are underway to renew and develop standards and design a new and accredited training programme among other relevant initiatives which will eventually bring about tangible improvements in Day Care Services.

**Acknowledgement & Appreciation**

Sponsor: Children Special Fund
Consultants : Dr. Geraldine Zuzarte & Angela Chng
Project Officers: JulinaMadeleine, Vereine Louis-Marie and Juhi Jha
Registered Day Care Operators and Staff
IECD Management and Staff