

EARLY YEARS FACTSHEET

DATA . ANALYTICS . ACTION . IMPACT



ISSUE 1
JULY 2019

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF DAY CARE SERVICE PROVISION

Early Years Factsheet is an initiative of the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) that presents a snapshot of the research carried out in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). Through this Factsheet, IECD aims to widely disseminate the findings in a manner that is simple and easy to understand for the general population.

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.

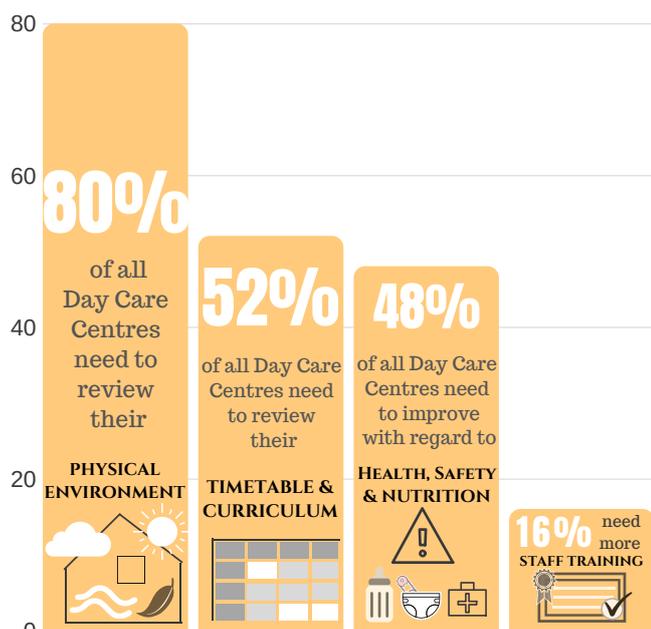


27 DAYCARE CENTRES

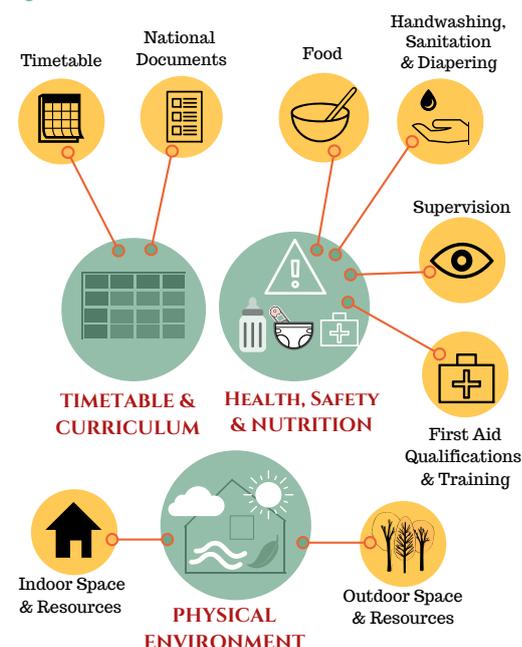
1187 CHILDREN

801 PARENTS

Key Recommended Areas for Improvement



Unpacking some of the Key Areas





Observations



Recommendations

Some centres are overcrowded inspite of adhering to **Group Size** standards.

Standards need to be updated to reflect group size together with **Space Norms** for different age groups of children.

Teacher : Child Ratio standard specifies the maximum number of children each teacher should take care of, but this is not consistently observed across the different centers.

- 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

Currently, no educational qualification or prior knowledge of early childhood is required for Day Care staff.

There is an urgent need to train operators and staff.

- 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

Health and Safety standards need to be reviewed and made more stringent for Food Handling, Serving and Storage for children.

- 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

Centres need to reorganize and redesign their space. in keeping with space norms that reflect different needs of different age groups.

- One-way, instructional communication observed between teachers and students
- Children are left crying for prolonged periods

More Professional Development workshops to be organized in order to enhance staff - children interactions and supervision.

- 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

- 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

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Registered Day Care Operators and Staff

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