

The ECCE Curriculum

What is the National ECCE Curriculum?

The National ECCE Curriculum is a comprehensive, research-based document which facilitates curriculum planning for children three and four-years of age. It adopts an integrated approach and caters for holistic development of the young child with an emphasis on values education and early literacy and numeracy.

ECCE Curriculum is designed according to five strands:

1. Wellness
2. Effective Communication
3. Aesthetic Expression
4. Intellectual Empowerment
5. Citizenship

How Children learn using this curriculum?

Through the seven broad principles reflecting developmentally appropriate practices; Holistic Learning and Development, Active Learning, Interactive Learning, Integrated Learning, Learning through Play, Partnership/Relationship for Learning, and Authentic Assessment. These principles are central to quality curriculum for three and four-year old children in early childhood settings.

How is the curriculum delivered?

The curriculum is integrated so that children's learning in all areas occurs primarily through the in-depth explorations of themes and projects, which are organized in such a way that they cut across subject matter lines, bringing together various aspects of the curriculum into meaningful association. For example, children making soup are learning the names of the vegetables (**language**), the shapes of the vegetables (**geometry**), the weight of the ingredients (**math**), and the effect of heating up the contents (**science**) not to mention social cooperation in making and enjoying a consumable product. The integrated curriculum is emergent, incorporating the use of

projects, themes and the use of **learning centres** with a variety of materials and resources, which help to add depth to the curriculum, and four interactive processes used in implementation. Themes, projects and activities are based on how children learn and on their expressed or observed interests.

How is compliance to the National Curriculum ensured?

The ECCE Division ensures quality in the implementation of curriculum for both the public and private ECCE sector. This is done through intensive monitoring and evaluation by a core curriculum team as well as a progressive training programme for all levels of staff.

Will children learn literacy and numeracy skills using the curriculum?

Key Components of Literacy	Key Components of Numeracy
Oral Language	Number/Number Operations
Phonological and Phonemic Awareness	Patterns
Alphabetic Knowledge	Shape
Print Knowledge and Concepts	Space and Position
Invented Spelling	Comparison of Measure including time and money
	Statistics (information gathering/tables/ charts)

How parents are involved in the curriculum?

Teachers develop the following **partnerships** to promote children's learning:

- * partnerships with children;
- * partnerships with parents/family;
- * partnerships with the community;
- * professional partnerships

These partnerships are built on collegiality, trust and mutual respect and promote ownership of the curriculum.