

## Footprints into ECD continued

### Cognitive Development in your toddler...

One way that you can assist this development is by encouraging imaginary play and hiding games. Play hide and seek and treasure games. A 2-3-year old loves to help, so allow them to do so safely, make it a game and during the clean-up session use simple instructions. Car games are fun to play and can incorporate find the colour, numbers and letters. Make it a competition which will include counting when adding points.

Remember above all that every child develops at their own pace. While there are times that you need to consult your doctor, most of the time even if your toddler is a little behind, they will catch up and you must allow them to do so without pressurizing them unnecessarily.



In line with these several changes to Early Child Development (ECD) in South Africa will take place, including:

- ECD will now fall under the responsibility of the Department of basic Education (DBE), historically registration, management and ongoing certification has been handled by the Department of Social Development (DSD);
- Providing a comprehensive package of ECD services (birth registration, social assistance, parenting support and quality learning);
- Standardising guidelines, norms and standards for ECD and setting the employment targets in the sector over the next five years;
- Developing a plan to take care of the first 1,000 days of human life, from pregnancy until two years of age, in which the pregnant mother will get good nutrition, be encouraged to stop smoking and drinking alcohol and undertake antenatal care visits from an early stage. The baby should receive good nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, immunisation and growth monitoring;
- Promoting different models for delivering home and community-based ECD.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE ECD SECTOR

**During the State of the Nation Address earlier this year our president announced various focus areas on the Early Childhood sector. Preparation is in place to make two years of early childhood development compulsory for all children. This compulsory enrolment will apply to all South African children between the ages of four and five and will take place before the child enters grade 1.**

How this will all be achieved is uncertain at present and there are various meetings happening across the country as we speak. We will hopefully have direction soon. As soon as ACSI has access to this information a full document will be made available which will include information on registration, ongoing compliance and legislation.