Northern Synod

TASK TEAM EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Report

(Summative)

1. Assignment

To work with the Christian Social Council (CSC) to continue the work done by the previous task team.

2. Task team

Task team Leader: Ronél Aylward (in conjunction with the SSC)
Task team Members: Johan Erasmus, Judy van Heerden, Marie-Jean Brink, Liesel Ebersohn, Rehan Rheeder, Paul Grobler (ex officio).

3. Execution of the assignment

There were no meetings after 8 October 2026[5?]. There was, however, a year-end function in 21 Januarie 2026 at Dr Johan Erasmus's house

At their annual strategic planning conference, the CSC North made certain to incorporate the project, and the Northern Synod's ECD programme is a standing item on the agendas of the meetings by management, the board of directors, and staff.

The CSC North has already done the following actions in terms of the programme:

- DRC Messina was approached. They are very positive about being involved in the Preschool Development Centre managed by an external party on the church premises and based on the manual made available by the task team.
- The URCSA also indicated that they would be interested in the project and the social worker at SSC North's Louis Trichardt's Centre of Hope is attending to this.

- One of the social workers in the SSC North's Warmbaths Centre of Hope has identified a needy preschool centre and the DR Church's mother congregation indicated that they want to be involved.
- Other SSC North Centres of Hope have already identified needy centres and are in the process of reaching out to congregations.

4. **Further planning**

4.1. Congregations will be encouraged to take part in the "Adopt-a-preschool" programme and will make use of the expertise pf the task team in this regard.

4.2. SSC North Centres of Hope will continue to approach congregations to make them aware of the needs of Preschool Development Centres in their area and facilitate engagement with these centres.

4.3. Collaboration with the Western Cape Synod (Little Seeds) will continue in order to promote the implementation of the programme as widely as possible.

5. Final remarks

We as the ECD Task Team are thankful for the work done regarding Early Childhood Development and look forward to supporting congregations in this regard in order to promote this extremely important aspect of the Ministry of Mercy. Our children (and their carers) are our future and play a very important role in the Kingdom of God. It is a privilege for us to serve the Church and the Lord in this way.