

LEARNING BYTE

FINANCES & FUNDRAISING 1

2026

VOLUME 2.1

THIS ISSUE:

**SHOULD I START AN
ECD CENTRE?**

LET'S GET PLANNING

**DEVELOPING A BUSINESS
PLAN**

USEFUL GUIDES

WELCOME BACK!

In this, our financial literacy series of Learning Bytes, we are looking at the financial implications for starting your own centre, managing your money, and generating income.

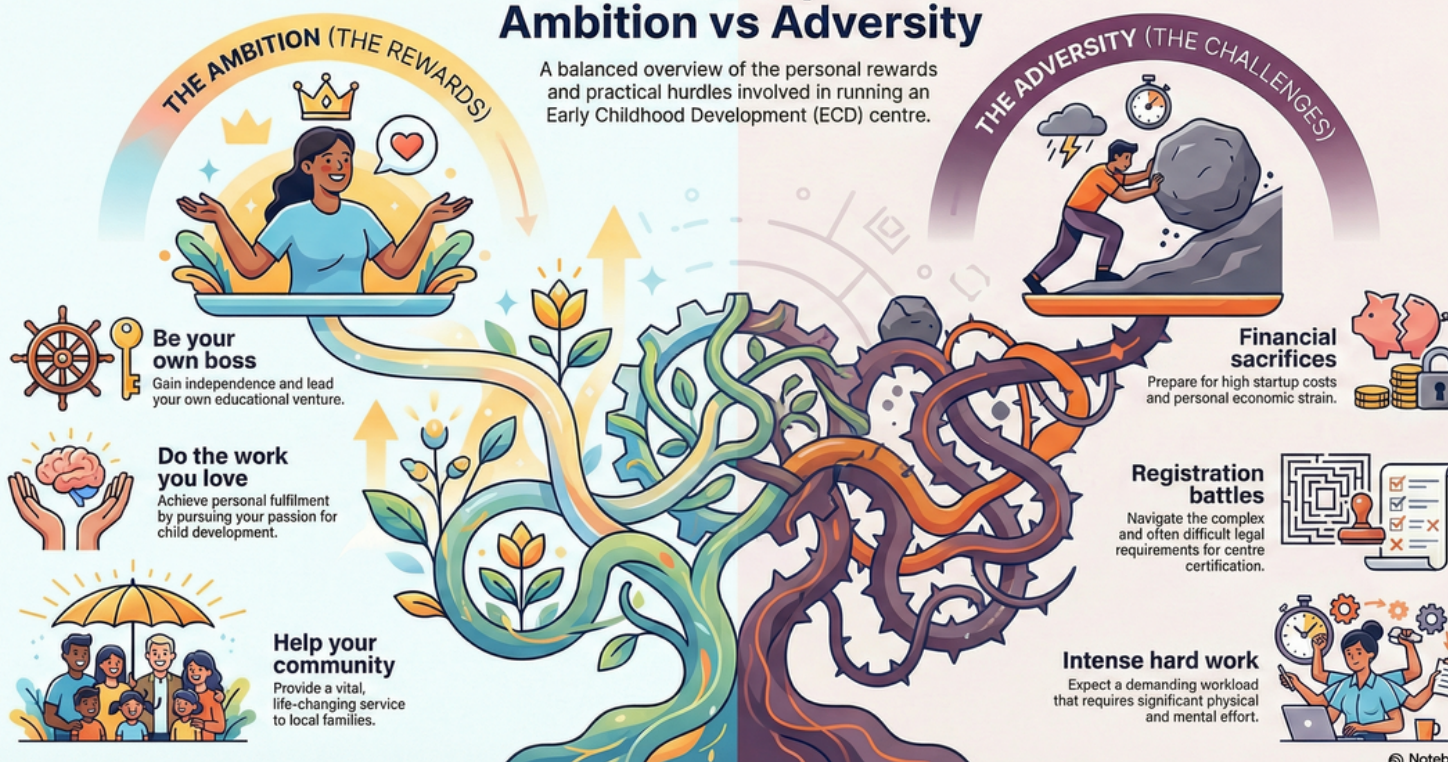
As always, we will include links out to other organisation resources, further reading and information, and useful downloadable resources, which support your journey of becoming a professional business owner. Please let us know what you think using the feedback link on the last page.

Yours in ECD,
Umncedi

SHOULD I START AN ECD CENTRE?

The ECD Entrepreneur: Ambition vs Adversity

A balanced overview of the personal rewards and practical hurdles involved in running an Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre.



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SHOULD I START AN ECD CENTRE?

SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF before opening your own ECD Centre:

- **AM I DRIVEN ENOUGH?**
- **DO I ENJOY CHALLENGES?**
- **CAN I DO ALL THE WORK REQUIRED?**
- **CAN I GIVE UP MY TIME?**
- **CAN I GIVE THIS EVERYTHING I HAVE?**



Click [here](#) to see a flow chart which may help you make a decision

ARE YOU AN EDUCATOR?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL ECD EDUCATOR

- ☐ high energy levels
- ☐ calm
- ☐ friendly and kind
- ☐ positive attitude
- ☐ hard worker
- ☐ lifelong learner
- ☐ flexible
- ☐ compassionate
- ☐ patient
- ☐ a love for children
- ☐ critical thinker

"ALWAYS DO
YOUR BEST.
WHAT YOU
PLANT NOW,
YOU WILL
HARVEST LATER."
—OG MANDINO



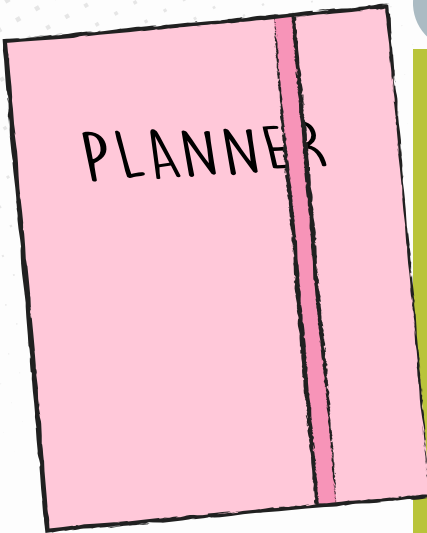
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LET'S GET PLANNING!



PLANNER

Now that you have decided you're up to the challenge of owning an ECD Centre, let's choose what kind of centre you want to have. It is widely considered that there are three types of ECD Centre: Fixed and Formal Centres; Mobile and Community-Based Programmes; and Home-Based and Satellite programmes. The infographic below gives you a brief overview of what each of these look like. Deciding which one you want to start depends on what resources you have available and what your community needs.

Choosing the Right ECD Centre Model



Fixed and Formal Centers

- Includes Daycares, Preschools, and Crèches providing structured daily care and educational programs in dedicated facilities.



Mobile and Community-Based Options

- Reaches underserved or rural areas using vehicles, community halls, or existing clinics to provide localized services.



Home-Based and Satellite Support

- Delivers stimulation programs directly to households or connects small centers to larger flagship resource hubs.

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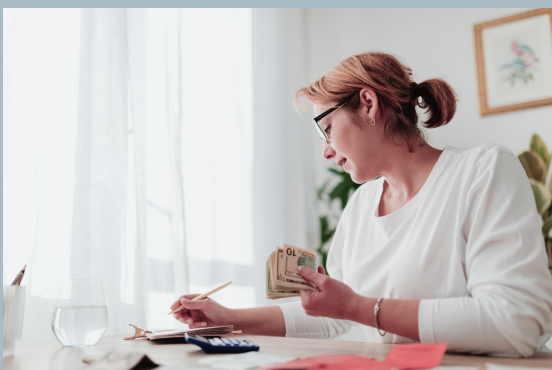
DEVELOPING A BUSINESS PLAN



- **Executive Summary:**
 - This first section should contain the overall outline of your business proposal.
- **Business Description:**
 - This section should describe your business as well as its structure.
- **Services and Products:**
 - This section should be about what you are selling, how you are going to sell it, and what makes your product or service unique.
- **Marketing and Sales Plan:**
 - This section should outline how you are going to make money, reach your target audience, and grow your client base.
- **Financial Plan:**
 - In this section, you will need a budget, an asset assessment of your company, an operational costs breakdown, and income projections.
- **Strategy and Implementation:**
 - In this section, you should address how you are going to take this business plan and turn it into a reality.



CLICK HERE FOR A BUSINESS PLAN TEMPLATE



***one book, one
pen, one
child, and one
teacher can
change the
world***



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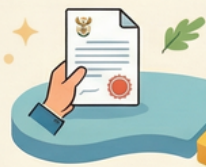
THE OXBRIDGE GUIDE TO OPENING AN ECD CENTRE

Starting an ECD centre is a significant undertaking that requires careful planning, legal compliance, and a passion for childcare. In the Oxbridge Guide you will find:

The Roadmap to Opening Your Own ECD Centre

A guide on the essential business, legal, and operational steps to start an Early Childhood Development centre in South Africa.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS



Formal Registration is Mandatory

Register with the local Department of Social Development branch.



Draft a Targeted Business Plan

Include daily schedule, curriculum, and financial projections to attract potential investors.



R30,000–R50,000 Typical Startup Cost

Estimated for equipment, remodelling, and basic operational overheads.

BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENT



Adhere to Space Requirements

Provide 1.5m² indoor room and 2m² outdoor play space per child.



Maintain a 1:6 Teacher Ratio

The Department of Social Development requires one teacher for every six children.



Implement a Recognised Curriculum

Use the National Curriculum Framework to focus on well-being, identity, and communication.

Typical Startup Expenses (ZAR)

Expense Category	Estimated Cost (ZAR)
Equipment & Toys	R30,000 – R40,000
Carpet/Facility Remodelling	R40,000
General Startup (Bohannet)	

DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY HERE:
<https://www.oxbridgeacademy.edu.za/Documents/How-To-Start-a-ECD-Centre-Ebook.pdf>



An Oxbridge Academy Guide:

The A to Z of starting an Early Childhood Development Centre



Oxbridge Academy ✓

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ANOTHER USEFUL GUIDE

This document, titled **ECD Financial Management Basics**, is a 2021 student guide for a workshop presented by The Love Trust. The Love Trust is an organization that describes its mission as "A Journey of Hope," and it focuses on providing training and support to Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners to improve the quality of education for learners.



WHAT'S IN THE GUIDE?

✓ Simplified financial management for ECD owners and staff

✓ Financial Literacy Basics

✓ Best Practices and Resources

✓ Practical Templates

✓ Operational Management

✓ Budgeting and Record-Keeping



**DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY
HERE:**

https://africanhoneybee.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ECD_Financial_Management_Student_Workbook_-_Final_20210609.pdf



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RESOURCES AND FURTHER READING



Helpful Links

- [Business Plan Template](#)
- [OXBRIDGE ACADEMY How To Start An ECD](#)
- [LOVE TRUST ECD Financial Management](#)
- [Childcare Centre Budget BLOG](#)
- [ILIFA LABANTWANA Types of ECD Centres](#)
- [CITY OF CAPE TOWN ECD Guide](#)

And that brings us to the end of our first Finances and Fundraising Learning Byte.

Thank you for joining us, and look out for our next issue where we discuss fundraising and applying for grants for your ECD Centre. As always, this page contains links to useful websites, links to supporting documents, and further reading.

Yours in ECD

The Umncedi Learning Byte Team



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