



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND CUSTOMER CARE

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GOVERNMENT ENSURING QUALITY TEACHING TO ALL

27 September 2016

The Eastern Cape Department of Education is prioritising the quality of Early Childhood Development by ensuring that our Grade R Teachers are adequately qualified. This will directly and effectively elevate the quality of teaching in Grade R classes, specifically in the vast rural parts of this province where the greatest need exists for quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes.

Close to a 1000 final year Diploma in Grade R student teachers are currently busy with their Practice Teaching session across this province. The purpose of the practice teaching sessions is to provide student teachers the opportunity to become acquainted with formal teaching in a practical school situation and to apply theoretical knowledge gained to the learning child. The impact of this program is evident in the classroom setting with student teachers implementing the curriculum (CAPS), integrating Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM), engaging and supporting learners in an effective and structure manner.

These student teachers registered in 2014 and constitutes the first intake of in-service practitioners for this programme in the province over the past few years. The second cohort of students was registered in 2015, and the third intake in July this year. The Eastern Cape Department of Education (EC DoE) is providing bursaries for these students for the duration of their studies at SANTS Private Higher Education Institution.

The minimum qualification for Grade R Teachers is the *Diploma in Grade R Teaching NQF Level 6* qualification, which is in accordance with the *National Qualifications Framework act 67: Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualification of 2011*. On completion of the Diploma in Grade R Teaching, student teachers will be qualified and recognised teachers who will be able to teach Grade R learners in formal schooling.

The Diploma in Grade R Teaching addresses a national strategic priority. Focusing on the quality of Grade R programmes may offer the most effective solution yet to the complex challenges facing the South African education and training system

Issued by: EC Department of Education & SANTS Private Higher Education Institution

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building blocks for growth.



Ikamva eliqaqambileyo!