

Availability, Adequacy and Suitability of Infrastructure, Furniture and Outdoor Play Area Equipment at ECD

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to assess the availability, adequacy, and suitability of infrastructure, furniture and outdoor play area equipment at ECD centres in Bindura District of Zimbabwe. A descriptive survey design was adopted, with questionnaire and interview as the data collection instruments. The population of the study consisted of all ECD teachers in the District. Sixty (60) teachers were randomly selected to provide data necessary for this study. Infrastructure such as classrooms and toilets was found to be inadequate and unsuitable for use by ECD children. Furniture too was not, at most ECD centres, suited for young children. Outdoor play area equipment was found to be available at most ECD centres with only a few centres reporting a lack of certain types of equipment. The study concluded that majority of ECD learners in the District failed to access the basic conditions in terms of infrastructure and furniture. There was evidence of significant progress in the development of outdoor play area equipment. It was recommended that the schools work on providing more, appropriate and child friendly infrastructure, furniture and play equipment. Schools should also mobilize communities to actively participate in developing child-friendly centres.

Keywords: *Early Childhood Development, ECD centre, Infrastructure, Availability, Adequacy, Suitability*