

Little Seeds Community model for ECD

(Bernard Joubert)

START: What excites you about children in your community

Question 1: Share about all the activities that people are doing for and with children in your community

Write all the answers on a paper. Answers can probably be categorized into four:

- *Family/home*
- *School*
- *Church*
- *Community*

Divide paper into 4 and categorize the answers.

Question 2: In spite of all the good things, what are the things that make you sad in the community (threats).

Explain that the threats are like a river with crocodiles, we can keep on pulling children out and saving them. Or we can stop children from falling in the river.

“Mercy is bandaging up bloodied people in life. Justice is systemically stopping those who are bleeding up people. The church needs both kinds of ministries.” – Rich Villodas

Question 3: What is God’s heart for your community?

Read Matthew 18:1-14

Divide the group into pairs and discuss the text – let each person give feedback about what they hear from the text.

Write all the answers on a paper. Mark themes that correlate.

Question 4: What are the developmental phases of a child’s life?

Give a short overview of:

- *First thousand days of life*
- *Pre-school (3-5 years)*
- *School phase (6-9)*
- *Pre-teen (10-12)*
- *Adolescence (13-18)*

Commitment to ECD initiatives is a 20 year commitment!

Give a short overview of children's basic needs:

- Physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, social

Give a short reminder of the building blocks of ECD

- Love, security, quality nutrition and stimulation

Question 5: (Refer back to the categories listed at question 1.) These are the places where we will find children in your community. These are also the safety nets that will help/keep children safe and let them flourish.

Map the safety nets and developmental phases:

	0-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-9 yrs	10-12 yrs	13-15 yrs	16-18 yrs
Family						
School						
Church						
Commun						

Map the safety nets and needs:

	Spiritual	Social	Emotional	Physical	Intellectual
Family					
School					
Church					
Commun					

This mapping will provide an indication as to the importance of networking in your community and identify the gaps where the needs of children are not met.

Question 6: Who will go forward?

As soon as the gaps are identified, decide on the immediate next practical step to take.

Who will take responsibility for the process forward? Make sure to appoint someone or a working committee before you leave the room.