



# GOVERNMENT NEWS



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## PROTECTING CHILDREN DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND

- The Department of Social Development, in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, aims to improve the standard of Early Childhood Development (ECD) across the country, as part of this year's Child Protection Week campaign.
- The partnership between the department and the Nelson Mandela Foundation will culminate with the launch of Vangasali-Every Child Counts Campaign, which is targeting unregistered ECD centres, with the view of assisting them to meet the minimum norms and standards for registration, as stipulated in the Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005).
- Members of the public are encouraged to find ECD facilities in their local communities. Once a centre has been identified, members of the public are advised to send the word "ECD" to 082 046 8553 on WhatsApp.
- The name, details and the geolocation of the centre will be entered into the Govchat database for mapping purposes. This will also assist in determining the coverage of ECD services, particularly in poor and vulnerable communities.
- The campaign will be rolled out nationwide in three phases, namely find and count (phase 1), categorise (phase 2) and intervention (phase 3).
- The goal is to provide support packages to all identified ECD centres to progressively register and enhance the delivery of quality ECD services, including nutrition, health and safety of children.
- The package of ECD registration benefits include amongst other things, access to basic social services such as access to government subsidy in the form of a R15 per child a day for 365 days a year.
- For more information visit: <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/protecting-children-during-covid-19-and-beyond>



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