

Symposia

5 - this is the entry number but will change to Date, Time, Location info

Unlocking the potential of community stakeholders to facilitate early childhood development in South Africa

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In low- and middle-income countries, such as South Africa, approximately 250 million children are not reaching their developmental potential. The South African National Development Plan for 2030 proposes to improve early developmental outcomes through the application of the Nurturing Care Framework (NCF) using the Side-by-Side Campaign. The 5 NCF components are addressed at various levels through enabling environments namely policies, supportive services (early childhood development [ECD] centres), empowered communities (community health workers) and, most importantly, caregiver capabilities. Caregivers, ECD practitioners and community health workers should not be underestimated as key role-players in creating enabling environments for ECD. These stakeholders are best positioned to facilitate developmental care but need support through innovative healthcare solutions. Three studies proposing solutions will be discussed in this session. Studies investigated the potential of community stakeholders, from various enabling environments, to facilitate ECD in low-resourced communities, including caregivers, ECD practitioners / early childhood educators, community health workers. Future implications for practice will be outlined to increase support to community stakeholders in ECD, guided by the NCF, and to counter barriers experienced in low-resourced, high risk communities.

Contributing Papers

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Presenting Authors: Jeannie van der Linde & Maria du Toit

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