

## **Assessment of the Norms and Standards for Day Care Centres for Preschool Children in South Africa**

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**ABSTRACT** The quality of day care centres is mainly determined by two interrelated aspects in terms of developmental outcomes: the physical infrastructure of the centre and the educational environment in which the children are placed. This article reports on an empirical investigation into the conditions of three day care centres in Limpopo. A literature study focused on the norms and standards of quality Early Childhood Education centres and conditions of these day care centres were measured against the established norms and standards. Data was gathered by means of observations and interviews. The research revealed that early childhood education in both township and rural schools do not meet the required standards. The implications of the conditions of these centres on the children's development are briefly discussed, and recommendations are made.