

thrive⁵

thrive by five | INDEX



ECD measure

Sponsored by



The Thrive by Five Team

The Thrive by Five Index is the product of the collective efforts of a multidisciplinary team, including experts in early childhood development, psychology, economics, data science, fieldwork management, research, communications, and child assessment. It would not have been possible without the thousands of children and hundreds of early learning practitioners who gave of their time to participate.

Index leads:

- **Sonja Giese** was founding Executive Director of Innovation Edge and led the organisation and its data work for eight years. She now heads up DataDrive2030.
- **Janeli Kotze** is a Deputy Director in the Research Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate at the Department of Basic Education.

Data analysis and technical reports:

- **Colin Tredoux** is Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town and a Research Associate at Université de Toulouse, Jean Jaurés.
- **Andrew Dawes** is Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town and a Research Associate with the Young Lives study at Oxford University.
- **Frances Mattes** is a Masters in Psychological Research candidate in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town.
- **Grace Bridgman** is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University, focusing on the spatial inequality in child health and development, and is also a researcher with ReSEP in the same department.
- **Servaas van der Berg** is Professor of Economics at Stellenbosch University and the South African Research Chair in the Economics of Social Policy.

Training and fieldwork teams:

- **Jan Schenk** is the Director of ikapadata and has a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cape Town.
- **Lameez Alexander** is a research analyst and has a PhD in Organisational Behaviour from the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University.

- **Elizabeth Girdwood** is an economist specialising in the economics of education and ECD in South Africa.
- **Linda Biersteker** is a developmental psychologist and educator and is considered one of South Africa's leading early childhood development specialists.
- **Trainers** included occupational therapists, senior researchers and experienced ELOM assessors.
- **Data collection** was undertaken by 72 accredited ELOM assessors and auditors assigned to 18 teams, two teams per province. Assessments were conducted in all 11 official South African languages.

Additional project management and communications support was provided by the Innovation Edge team and associates:

- **Temitope A. Ogunyoku** is a researcher and has a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Davis.
- **Nicole Biondi** is the strategic head of marketing and communications activities for Innovation Edge.
- **Svetlana Doneva** is a communication specialist focusing on sustainable development.

The Index **steering committee** was led by the Department of Basic Education and included representatives from Innovation Edge, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency, Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Statistics South Africa and Treasury.

The project management team was led by Innovation Edge and included representatives from the Department of Basic Education, First National Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and ECDMeasure.