

CHILDREN'S IMBIZO

"From peace in the home to peace in the world"

Child Care SA in partnership with the Department of Education hosted the annual children's Imbizo. The aim of the event was to provide a platform where rural children are able to voice their opinion on issues affecting them through interacting with one another.

160 delegates from 17 primary schools under uMlalazi Municipality participated. A wide range of issues related to child abuse was discussed. It is essential to engage our children who will be the leaders of the future, in thinking about child protection issues so that they can start to take action.

95% of the speakers were children with adults facilitating sessions; Lwazi Director of Child Care SA gave a brief presentation on Child Protection.



What is Child Protection?

- It is preventing and protecting children from any form of abuse, maltreatment, neglect or degradation.
- Responding to children who have been abused or harmed
- Responding to children in need of care and protection

Why is protecting our children important?

Child protection makes sure that our children are safe and their development needs are met. Development needs include: physical, emotional, spiritual, economic, social, mental and cultural needs.

What happens when children are not protected?

When children are not protected they are at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is any type of harm or ill-treatment to a child such as: hitting, beating, sexual abuse, bullying, child labour, and hurting the child emotionally and psychologically.



Children from different schools gave detailed presentations on forms of Child Abuse:

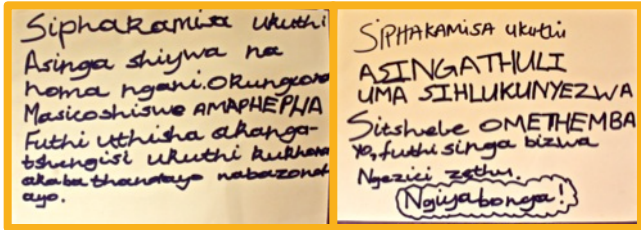
- **Bonamuva Primary School** presented **Child Neglect**. Neglect is deliberately not providing for a child's physical needs (such as food, warmth, shelter or protection from danger). Failure to seek, follow through with medical care, failure to make provision for the child's education. Leaving children at home or in a car.
- **Baqaqe Primary School** presented on **Child Sexual Abuse**. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. It is abuse whether the child has consented or not. This can be flashing, peeping, fondling, exposure to pornographic material, oral sex, finger penetration of the anus, rape, sodomy or prostitution.
- **Nkume Primary School** presented on **Child Emotional & psychological Abuse**. Emotional and psychological abuse is a pattern that harms or limits a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. It can take the form of: criticism, threats or rejection, ignoring, isolating, taking advantage, corrupting, swearing at a child & lying to a child.
- **Vulinqondo Primary School** presented on **Child Exploitation**. Child exploitation is exposure of a child to the following situations: Child Labour; Slavery; Sexual exploitation; Child-pornography; Child trafficking; Forced removal of body parts.
- **Mgebisa Primary School** presented on **Child Physical Abuse**. Physical abuse, this is any act that results in inflicted injury or death to a child. This can be bruises and welts, cuts and abrasions, fractures or sprains, poisoning, burns, and any repeated injury for which the explanation is inadequate or inconsistent.



WHAT WERE THE ISSUES RAISED?

- **Corporal punishment in Schools:**
 - teachers use pipes and sometimes slap the children
 - positive discipline is not practiced
- **Sexual abuse:**
 - there is an increase in rape incidents no action is taken when they report
 - in most cases parents do not believe the children
- **Forced marriages "Usiko lokuqoma"**
- **Bullying**

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:



THEIR VOICES ARE NOT HEARD!!

For more information contact us at:
 Office: 21 Stephen Offer, Eshowe, 3815
 Postal address: P.O.Box 861, Eshowe, 3815

Tel.: 035 474 0710
 Email: info@childcare.org.za
 Web: www.childcare.org.za



basic education
 Department: Basic Education
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA