

# Community Engagement

## Report: *Parental Involvement in Early Childhood Development*

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### The research project

My research project focused on the link between social connectedness and Early Childhood Development (ECD) and how parental involvement in ECD can be strengthened, particularly in low-resource communities across South Africa. It was a collective study between The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness and The Motheo Training Institute Trust.

### The initiative

The community engagement consisted **of semi-structured interviews with eight participants, who consisted of four parents and four practitioners**, to reveal current barriers and best practices for parental involvement and social connectedness. The parents and practitioners were from Benoni , Johannesburg and its surrounding townships; Mogoba Village, Daveyton, Etwatwa, and Chief A. Luthuli. The interviews took place from the 25th to 27th of June 2021, and were conducted telephonically due to the COVID-19 restrictions which were in South Africa at the time of the study.

### The Impact

The initiative revealed that the current barriers to parental engagement include: a lack of knowledge by the parents on the importance of ECD, challenges in nutritional participation by the parents and the ECD centres, and a lack of resources and partnership from the parents to the ECD centres.



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