The first nine years of children’s lives are fundamentally essential to their development as human beings. In fact, they are so vital that a country’s economic position, globally, and its success as a nation depends on its Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes.

Taking into consideration the South African Government’s commitment to recognise and support ECD, the South African Early Childhood Development Awards aim to raise awareness of the ECD sector’s goal to break the cycle of inherited poverty while promoting excellence in the ECD sector.

**ECD Publication Award**

A good education for the 21st Century begins with early literacy learning. Positive first experiences with stories and books motivate babies and young children to want to read. The ECD Publication Award is for a book that promotes and nurtures a love of reading in babies and young children.

Books considered will be ones which are:

- Written for children birth to five years
- Intended for South African children
- Availability in indigenous languages a great advantage
- Written and illustrated by South Africans
- Printed and published in South Africa

The following kinds of books will be considered for the award:
- board books,
- picture story books,
- wordless books,
- early concept books,
- riddle and rhyme books,
- song books.

No materials that are primarily educational (eg work books, colouring books etc) or are aimed at adults working with babies will be considered ie: textbooks, teaching/training materials, graded readers, resource books, research publications or similar materials.
**Contact Details**

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The following are the eligibility criteria:

(a) The publication was created for South African children.
(b) The publication is published (internal or externally) in any of the official South African languages.
(c) The author(s) of the publication is South African.
(d) The publication has been used with and for children for at least six (6) months.
(e) Two (2) hard copies of the publication need to be submitted with the form with all the information completed.

Please use a maximum of 3 pages to give a description of the publication, using the following headings:

1. Name of the publication
2. Author(s)
3. Language(s) in which the publication is published
4. Number of copies of this publication printed (total)
5. Target age group of this publication
6. What is the primary aim of this publication?
7. Was this publication pre-tested before it was published? If yes, how was this done?
8. How many babies and young children (through their parents or directly) received a copy of this publication?
9. How is/was the publication distributed?
10. Is the publication freely available to the target audience? If not, what is the cost of this publication?
11. Motivation: Why should this publication be considered for an ECD Award?

Entry submitted by:

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**Competition Rules**

- The nomination process will open 1 August 2013 and deadline for submissions is 30 September 2013. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Previous winners are not eligible to enter the competition for two years from the time of winning.
- Nomination forms must be filled in correctly and in detail with as much information as possible to assist in the evaluation process.
- Provincial finalists will be invited to attend the Provincial Awards Ceremony and the national training week (September/October 2012)
- A winner in each category will be announced at the National Awards Ceremony.
- Winners will be interviewed and featured in the media.
- The decision of the selection committee and judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The competition is subject to cancellation by the organisers through a public announcement.

Please return this form to:
The Development Link and Facilitators of Learning CC
PO Box 2664
Pinelands
2123

For queries call:
Jacqui McCabe
E-mail: saecdawards@devlink.co.za
Cell: 071 778 7442
Fax: 011 888 8479 (must dial 088 first)