SUMMARY OF THE 2026 EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) ACTIVITIES

Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Assin South District

During the reporting period, January to November 2026, the Department undertook inspection and monitoring exercises at various Early Childhood Development Centres across the district to assess their operations, registration status, caregiving standards and the general welfare of children.

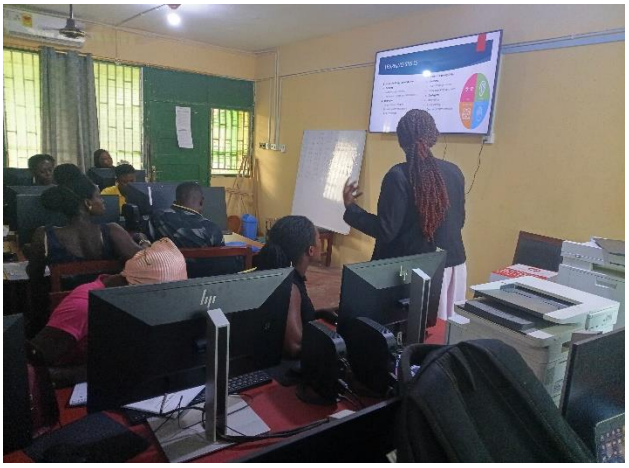
In the first quarter (January–March), fifteen (15) centres were inspected, covering 964 children, comprising 477 boys and 487 girls. The centres had 46 female caregivers, of whom 6 were trained and 40 were untrained.

In the second quarter (April–June), the Department inspected and monitored thirteen (13) centres, covering 1,122 children, made up of 486 boys and 636 girls. The centres had 36 caregivers, with the detailed records indicating 7 trained and 29 untrained caregivers.

A major achievement during the second quarter was the successful organisation of a six-week caregiver capacity-building programme from 1st April to 16th May 2026. The programme brought together 36 caregivers from private and community-based day care centres. Training covered child development, child protection and safeguarding, health and nutrition, inclusive education, classroom management, first aid, professional ethics, and the preparation and use of teaching and learning materials. All 36 participants successfully completed the programme and received certificates.

During the third quarter (July–September), the Department continued its monitoring activities, covering six (6) centres: Thy Grace Academy, Living God Preparatory School, Prophetess Mary Boafo Memorial School, Amazing Grace Academy, Precious Gift from God Preparatory School and Odumasi D/A Day Care Centre.












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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ASSIN SOUTH DISTRICT

2026 ANNUAL REPORT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) AND DAY CARE CENTRES INSPECTION AND MONITORING

Reporting Period: January – November 2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) play a significant role in promoting the holistic development of children during their formative years. It provides children with opportunities to develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and cognitively in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment.

The Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Assin South District, undertakes inspection and monitoring of Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC) and Day Care Centres (DCCs) to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained in the delivery of early childhood care and education services. These activities are intended to promote the safety, welfare, protection and developmental needs of children while ensuring that caregivers possess the requisite knowledge and skills to provide quality care.

During the period under review, January to November 2026, the Department undertook inspection and monitoring exercises at various Early Childhood Development Centres across the district. The Department also organised a six-week capacity-building programme for caregivers to strengthen their knowledge and competencies in providing quality early childhood care and development services.

This report presents the activities undertaken during the reporting period, achievements, statistical information, observations, challenges encountered and recommendations to improve the delivery of ECCD services in the district.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE ECCD ACTIVITIES

The inspection, monitoring and capacity-building activities were undertaken to:

1. Ensure that day care and early childhood development centres operate in accordance with the required standards and regulations.
2. Assess the general conditions of the centres, including the safety, hygiene and learning environment.
3. Monitor the welfare, care and developmental needs of children enrolled in the centres.
4. Assess the availability and competence of caregivers responsible for the daily care of children.
5. Identify unregistered centres and encourage them to regularise their operations.
6. Build the capacity of caregivers to improve the quality of early childhood care and education.
7. Promote child protection, safeguarding, inclusive education, health and nutrition in early childhood development settings.

3.0 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

3.1 First Quarter: January – March 2026

During the first quarter, the Department inspected and monitored fifteen (15) Early Childhood Development Centres across the district.

A total of nine hundred and sixty-four (964) children, comprising four hundred and seventy-seven (477) boys and four hundred and eighty-seven (487) girls, were covered during the exercise.

The centres had a total of forty-six (46) female caregivers, out of which six (6) were trained and forty (40) were untrained. The findings highlighted the need to strengthen the professional capacity of caregivers to ensure the delivery of quality early childhood care services.

The inspection also provided the Department with an opportunity to assess the registration status of the centres and identify those operating without registration. Out of the fifteen (15) centres visited, six (6) were registered, while nine (9) were not registered.

The following centres were inspected and monitored:

1. Amazing Grace Academy
2. Living God Preparatory School
3. Divine Grace Complex
4. Heritage Academy
5. Appiah's Preparatory School
6. Patmos Christian Mission School
7. Jamar Nursery and Primary School
8. Cedar Crest International School
9. Rock of Ages Preparatory School
10. Gift International School

11. Ongwa New Hope Academy
12. Amazing Grace Preparatory School
13. God Is King Preparatory School
14. God's Power Preparatory School
15. Awesome International School

3.2 Second Quarter: April – June 2026

During the second quarter, the Department continued its inspection and monitoring activities and visited thirteen (13) Early Childhood Development Centres within the district.

A total of one thousand one hundred and twenty-two (1,122) children, comprising four hundred and eighty-six (486) boys and six hundred and thirty-six (636) girls, were covered during the exercise.

The centres had a total of thirty-six (36) female caregivers. According to the detailed inspection records, seven (7) caregivers were trained, while twenty-nine (29) were untrained. This highlighted the continued need for capacity development and professional training among caregivers.

The centres inspected included:

1. Standard Educational Complex
2. The Apostles Preparatory School
3. Thy Grace Academy
4. Freeman Methodist
5. Gracious Preparatory School
6. Star of Good Hope Preparatory School
7. Patmos Christian Memorial School
8. Adventist Preparatory School
9. Gift International School
10. Andoe SDA Preparatory School
11. Royal Heaven's Gate Academy
12. Prophetess Mary Boafo Memorial School
13. In Christ Is Life Preparatory School

3.3 Early Childhood Care and Development Caregivers' Capacity-Building Programme

As part of efforts to improve the quality of early childhood care services in the district, the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, through its ECCD Desk, organised a six-week capacity-building programme for caregivers of registered day care centres from 1st April to 16th May 2026.

The programme was designed to strengthen the knowledge, practical skills and competencies of caregivers in delivering quality early childhood care and education services.

A total of thirty-six (36) caregivers from private and community-based day care centres across the district participated in the programme.

The training covered several important areas, including:

- Child growth and development.
- Child protection and safeguarding.
- Health, hygiene and nutrition.
- Inclusive education.
- Classroom management.
- First aid.
- Professional ethics.
- Preparation and effective use of teaching and learning materials.

A participatory approach was adopted throughout the programme. Training sessions involved presentations, practical demonstrations, group discussions, role plays and peer-learning activities. These methods provided participants with opportunities to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills that could be applied in their respective centres.

At the end of the programme, participants demonstrated improved understanding of child development principles, positive caregiving practices, child safeguarding measures, hygiene and sanitation, inclusive learning approaches, and the preparation and effective use of low-cost teaching and learning materials.

Certificates were presented to all thirty-six (36) participants during the closing ceremony in recognition of their successful participation.

The programme was an important intervention towards improving the quality of early childhood care services in the district, particularly in promoting safe, nurturing, inclusive and stimulating learning environments for young children.

Challenges encountered during the training

The programme was not without challenges. These included:

1. Transportation difficulties faced by some participants in accessing the training venue.
2. Competing work schedules at some day care centres, which occasionally affected participants' attendance.
3. Limited financial and material resources to support practical training sessions and demonstrations.

Way forward

The Department will continue to organise periodic refresher training programmes for caregivers, strengthen monitoring and supportive supervision of registered day care centres, and deepen

collaboration with relevant stakeholders and development partners to improve the quality and accessibility of ECCD services across the district.

3.4 Third Quarter: July – September 2026

During the third quarter, the Department continued its inspection and monitoring activities to assess the conditions and operations of Early Childhood Development Centres across the district.

A total of six (6) centres were monitored during the quarter. The centres visited were:

1. Thy Grace Academy
2. Living God Preparatory School
3. Prophetess Mary Boafo Memorial School
4. Amazing Grace Academy
5. Precious Gift from God Preparatory School
6. Odumasi D/A Day Care Centre

The exercise formed part of the Department's continuous efforts to monitor the standards of early childhood care services, assess the welfare of children and encourage centres to maintain appropriate operational and caregiving standards.

Statistical information: The detailed figures on the number of children, caregivers, registration status and specific findings from the third-quarter monitoring exercise are to be incorporated upon confirmation of the inspection records.

3.5 Fourth Quarter: October – November 2026

Information on activities undertaken during this period is yet to be incorporated into the report.

4.0 CONSOLIDATED STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The following table presents the available statistics from the first and second quarters.

Indicator	January–March	April–June	Cumulative
Centres inspected	15	13	28
Boys	477	486	963
Girls	487	636	1,123
Total children	964	1,122	2,086
Total caregivers	46	36	82
Trained caregivers	6	7	13
Untrained caregivers	40	29	69

Note: The cumulative figures above cover the first and second quarters only. The six third-quarter centres are not yet included in the statistical totals. The number of centre visits should

also be distinguished from the number of unique centres, as some centres were monitored in more than one quarter.

5.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Department recorded the following achievements during the reporting period:

1. **Continuous monitoring of ECCD centres:** The Department sustained its inspection and monitoring activities across the district, covering fifteen (15) centres in the first quarter, thirteen (13) in the second quarter and six (6) in the third quarter.
2. **Identification of unregistered centres:** The inspection exercises enabled the Department to identify centres operating without registration and brought attention to the need for such facilities to regularize their operations.
3. **Capacity building for caregivers:** The Department successfully organised a six-week training programme for thirty-six (36) caregivers, equipping them with relevant knowledge and practical skills to improve the quality of care provided to children.
4. **Promotion of child protection and safeguarding:** Through the caregiver training programme, emphasis was placed on child protection, safeguarding and the responsibility of caregivers to provide safe environments for children.
5. **Promotion of inclusive early childhood education:** Caregivers received training on inclusive education and approaches to addressing the diverse developmental and learning needs of children.
6. **Improvement in professional caregiving practices:** The training programme strengthened participants' understanding of child development, classroom management, health, nutrition, hygiene and the appropriate use of teaching and learning materials.

6.0 CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

The following challenges were identified from the activities undertaken:

1. **High number of untrained caregivers:** The first-quarter inspection revealed that forty (40) out of forty-six (46) caregivers were untrained. The second-quarter records also showed that twenty-nine (29) out of thirty-six (36) caregivers were untrained, highlighting the need for continuous professional development.
2. **Unregistered centres:** Some centres were found to be operating without registration, raising concerns about regulatory compliance and the need for continuous engagement and supervision.
3. **Transportation difficulties:** Some caregivers encountered difficulties accessing the venue for the six-week capacity-building programme.
4. **Competing work schedules:** The daily responsibilities of caregivers at their respective centres occasionally affected their availability and participation in the training sessions.
5. **Inadequate training resources:** Limited financial and material resources affected the organisation of some practical training sessions and demonstrations.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen the delivery of Early Childhood Care and Development services in the district, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Regular training and refresher programmes:** The Department should continue to organise periodic training and refresher programmes to equip caregivers with the requisite skills and knowledge for effective childcare and early childhood education.
2. **Strengthened monitoring and supervision:** Regular inspection and monitoring exercises should be sustained to ensure that centres comply with the required standards and provide safe and appropriate environments for children.
3. **Registration of unregistered centres:** The Department should intensify engagement with owners and managers of unregistered centres and guide them through the registration process to promote compliance with the relevant requirements.
4. **Support for caregiver training:** Adequate logistical, financial and material support should be provided to facilitate the effective organisation of caregiver capacity-building programmes.
5. **Stakeholder collaboration:** The Department should strengthen collaboration with the Ghana Education Service, health professionals, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders to improve the quality of ECCD services.
6. **Improved record keeping:** Centres should be encouraged to maintain accurate records on children's enrolment, attendance, health, caregiver qualifications and other relevant information to support effective monitoring and planning.
7. **Promotion of child safeguarding:** Continuous education should be provided to caregivers on child protection, positive discipline, early identification of developmental concerns and appropriate referral procedures.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, Assin South District, made significant efforts during the reporting period to promote quality Early Childhood Care and Development services through inspection, monitoring and capacity-building activities.

The inspection exercises provided the Department with opportunities to assess the operations of various centres, monitor the welfare of children and identify areas requiring improvement. Additionally, the six-week capacity-building programme for thirty-six (36) caregivers was a significant step towards strengthening the professional competencies of caregivers and improving the quality of care provided to young children.

Despite the challenges relating to untrained caregivers, unregistered centres, transportation and limited training resources, the Department remains committed to strengthening supervision, improving caregiver competencies and promoting safe, inclusive and child-friendly learning environments across the district.

Continued support from stakeholders, development partners and relevant authorities will be essential in sustaining these interventions and ensuring that children in the Assin South District have access to quality early childhood care and development services.