



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Early Childhood Family: Home, School, Community



November 8-9, 2018

IBEROSTAR Hotel & Resorts Montego Bay

OPENING CEREMONY

Nov 8, 2018 9:00 – 10:30 am

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mrs. Ceceile Minott, Chair Conference Planning Committee

Invocation

Nicola Shaw-Johnson, Class Teacher
Triumphant Basic School

Greetings & Remarks

Jamaica National Bank
The CHASE Fund

Item: Hemmingway Preparatory School

Greetings from the Ministry of Education

Sen. the Hon. Ruel Reid, CD, JP
Minister of Education, Youth & Information

Keynote Speaker

Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan
The Jamaican Child's First 2,000 Days; How Are We Doing?

WELCOME FROM THE DUDLEY GRANT MEMORIAL TRUST



It is with a great deal of excitement that we welcome you to the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust's (DGMT) Early Childhood Development Conference 2018 under the theme: The Early Childhood Family: Home, School, Community.

For the past twenty nine years the DGMT has been involved in charting a path in education, care and development for our children's future - and over this period of time there has been substantial progress locally as well as internationally in these areas. Much of this has been triggered by the scientific research evidence which points to the importance of the early years of development, from conception to age 8, as the basis for competence and coping skills that will affect learning, behaviour and health throughout life. This research has forced us to reflect on the many challenges associated with meeting the needs of all children; children of varying abilities and interests, as well as different home environments, family, school and community relationships. The annual DGMT conferences have been very successful in sharing up to date research and focusing on bridging the research-practice gap, by serving as a vital information source for those who make up the early childhood family through their interactions with our young children in a variety of environments and situations.

We are happy to be back in Montego Bay for this year's two-day conference, and to welcome local and international presenters and participants. The DGMT welcomes all who have travelled from various parts of Jamaica, the Caribbean and from North America to attend this Conference and to share with us as we engage in considering strategies for strengthening linkages between home, school and the community. The keynote address *The Jamaican Child's First 2,000 days; How are we Doing?* will be delivered by Prof. Maureen Samms-Vaughan who has been a passionate advocate for children over many years and has spear-headed ground-breaking research, including *"JA Kids: The Jamaican Birth Cohort Study 2011"* which she will share with us.

The DGMT has collaborated in the planning and staging of the Conference with the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of The UWI Open Campus, The UWI Mona School of Education, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and the Early Childhood Commission (ECC). The Trust values this collaboration and deeply appreciates the involvement and commitment of the collaborators.

The Trust has also received significant financial support from a number of donors who have contributed most generously to the staging of this Conference. Major donors are JN Bank Limited, the CHASE Fund, National Baking Company Foundation and Juici Patties. Other sponsors include: the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, Jamaica Producers Co Ltd, DOT Personnel Services (Jamaica) Limited, Sangster's Book Stores Limited and the IBEROSTAR Suites Hotel. We thank them most sincerely for partnering with us in this most important venture, and look forward to their continued support.

Welcome again to our conference, we look forward to sharing and learning with you our early childhood family.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

SEN. THE HON. RUEL REID, CD, JP



It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of the distinguished speakers and participants to the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust Early Childhood Conference. There is a growing acceptance that solving the early childhood educational challenges in this country is urgent and requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders.

The focus of the conference, on hands-on workshops for teacher trainees and educators from teacher training colleges, universities and early childhood institutions is a timely one. As a priority area for the Government of Jamaica, guided steps are being taken through the continued assistance of local and international partner agencies, to improve the current system. The aim is to produce well-adjusted future leaders who would have started to learn “Right from the Start” and will ultimately contribute to the nation’s growth and development.

I believe this forum will engage all the participants in enriching discussions and active debates on how to empower teachers. I am also pleased that this confab aims to support and channel these joint thrusts, by providing a platform for dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the early childhood sector thereby assisting with the “improvement of education through collaboration”. It will also provide an opportune occasion to reflect on changes that you can make in the coming months to advance student achievement and teacher empowerment. In order to achieve our ultimate goals, we need highly qualified and competent teachers who are willing to serve students with high-quality programs that are designed to meet the needs of these children under our watchful care.

I commend the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust organization for its efforts in its advocacy for the enrichment and improvement in the delivery of early childhood education in Jamaica and the English-speaking Caribbean and laud the group as well as those who support its work for their continued commitment to the children of Jamaica. Continue to be encouraged by that spirit of hope of your founder D.R.B. Grant and the determination and love for all matters pertaining to early childhood education, remembering at all times that success and excellence come through dedication, hard work and perseverance. The government remains committed to further improving the national early childhood development programme and extends best wishes for a successful colloquium. God Bless You all!

MESSAGE FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION

TRISHA WILLIAMS-SINGH, CHAIRMAN



The significant work and valuable contribution of the late Dudley Grant has etched an unforgettable mark in the legacy of Jamaica's early childhood sector. An educator and visionary, Mr Grant was significant in the revolution of early childhood education in Jamaica when almost no structure existed for early childhood learning.

With unchanging goal insight, successful partnerships and collaboration, came the development of a standardized national curriculum for children 0 to 5 years in association with the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust which represents a highly significant milestone for the Early Childhood Commission in its 15 years of existence.

The Early Childhood Commission and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information are tremendously grateful for the exceptional work demonstrated by the Trust which continues to lobby for the necessary resources, while advocating for quality early childhood education and acts as a counsel for the infrastructural development and preservation of standards among early childhood interests, not limited to Jamaica but also in the Caribbean.

The theme of this year's conference, "The Early Childhood Community: Home, School and Community" could not be more appropriate, as it reflects Standard 10 - 'Interactions with Parents and Community Members' of the Commission's 12 Operating Standards for Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs).

Over the years, the community has been instrumental in the administration and management of ECIs. Community groups (private or not for profit) have provided tremendous support for ECIs, given the lack of available resources to address the needs in the early childhood sector. However, while activities at the community level have been critical for Early Childhood Development (ECD), the efforts at best are 'piece-meal' and need to be streamlined for more effective delivery of services.

As such, the ECC will establish in 2019, an Early Childhood Development Community Council to create a coordinated, seamless and tailored system of services. The Council will ensure that each child receives all the essential services (health (physical and mental), education, social protection and physical security).

Undoubtedly, this year's conference will continue its trend-setting pattern of providing useful information that will aid in decision-making processes for stakeholders as well as improved relationships between children and adults who play a critical role in their growth and development.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSOR: CHASE FUND

W. BILLY HEAVEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The CHASE Fund is once again pleased to support the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust Annual Early Childhood Development Conference.

The theme - The Early Childhood Family: Home, School, Community is reflective of the need to include the home and community in the early childhood development equation. Our school system has become a microcosm of the wider society and with the thoughtful contributions from parents and the community we can build a better understanding of the education process - beneficial to the students we serve.

Community support is a logical outgrowth of parenting programmes in schools. Parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children at this level is critical. Many of the life-coping skills and behaviours that support sustainable national development are acquired at this stage and, accordingly, Jamaica's early childhood sector - with the support of the CHASE Fund - is focused on providing a comprehensive educational framework to address the needs of children.

I am hopeful that this Conference will create the paradigm shift that moves these stakeholders closer together. I would also want to posit that serious consideration be given to the inclusion of 'role-model-ship' and mentoring programmes as part of the equation going forward. This is a most effective method of altering inappropriate behaviour and it should be assiduously explored with a view of making it a part of our schools' curriculum.

For our part we remain committed to constructing, upgrading, restoring and equipping early childhood facilities; providing scholarships for specialist training in Early Childhood Education; and contributing to curriculum initiatives and conferences and workshops that will help ensure that all our children can reach their full potential.

It is our hope that the rich discussions on the issues highlighted for this conference will lead to programmes and partnerships that bring us closer to this goal.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSORS: JUICI BEEF LIMITED & THE NATIONAL BAKING COMPANY FOUNDATION



Congratulations to the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust for your tireless contribution to early childhood development through the empowerment of our teachers, families and the wider community. We are pleased to be part of this initiative, as we believe investing in a child's development is the best decision we can make as a society to ensure future success.

Juici Beef Limited proudly supports efforts that foster community participation and we believe in the adage "It takes a village to raise a child." The journey of parenthood can be a daunting undertaking when guiding children to independence. We therefore salute Dudley Grant Memorial Trust in creating villages that provides support and foster growth, peace, love, protection and positive relationships. All children have the right to grow up in an environment in which they are enabled to reach their full potential and all villagers play a fundamental role.

We applaud the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust on their mission to empower our villagers with the correct strategies to support and guide our children to independence. We charge and encourage you to continue this mission to support and empower. We look forward to many more years of the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust Early Childhood Conferences.



The National Baking Company Foundation is pleased to partner with The Dudley Grant Memorial Trust again this year to host its annual Early Childhood Development Conference. The Foundation through its Little Leaders initiative strives to bring quality and excellence to the island's ECI's through our ongoing donation of learning kits as well as through the delivery of our Early Childhood Teacher Development Training programme via our mobile classroom, Training Wheels. This year we added another element and offered Little Leaders Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships.

If we as a nation wish to improve standards, it is important for our youngest citizens to have proper learning tools but, of paramount importance are competent teachers, equipped with the best information and best tools to teach our children in their formative years.

The Foundation would like to applaud the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust for its continued support of our nations ECD practitioners as we continue to partner to achieve excellence.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Maureen Samms-Vaughan, CD, MBBS, DM (Paed.), PhD (Epidemiology)



Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan is known locally, regionally and internationally for her seminal research, clinical work and policy development in the field of child health, child development and behaviour. She is also recognised as an advocate for the well-being of all children, but particularly so for those at the early childhood level and those with developmental and behavioural disabilities. She works very closely with families of children with autism.

She served in a number of academic UWI positions since 1993, and was appointed UWI's first Professor of Child Health, Child Development and Behaviour in 2006. She has been Consultant Developmental and Behavioural Paediatrician at UHWI and Director of the weekly Child and Family Clinic for children with developmental and behavioural disorders since 1993. She has taught at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels throughout the UWI and has supervised doctoral students at the UWI and at several universities in the USA in child development research. She has Adjunct Professorial status at universities in the USA. She served as the first Chairman of Jamaica's Early Childhood Commission from 2003 to 2015, and was responsible for laying a modern foundation for ECD during that period.

Prof. Samms-Vaughan has over 100 publications, including three books, several book chapters and peer reviewed papers, on a range of child development and behaviour related topics. She has also completed numerous consultancies in the field of child development and behaviour for the IDB, the World Bank, UNICEF and PAHO. She is currently a member of the IDB's Advisory Group on Early Childhood Development. She has received numerous research grants for child development research from the CDB, UNICEF, the IDB, the World Bank and the National Institutes of Health.

She is a director of Family Life Ministries, Usain Bolt Foundation and a number of school boards. She has received a number of local and international awards, including, the Commander of the Order of Distinction by the Government of Jamaica in 2007 for pioneering work in early childhood development and child health care.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Schedule for Thursday, November 8			
8:00am - 9:00am	Registration		
9:00am - 10:30am	Opening Ceremony		
10:30am - 11:10am	Coffee Break		
	Negril Meeting Room	Ocho Rios Meeting Room	Port Antonio Meeting Room
Workshop Session 1 11:10am - 1:10pm	<p><i>Elevating the Conversation in Classrooms: How to Promote Higher Order Thinking</i></p> <p>Dr. Stephanie Curenton, Boston University</p>	<p><i>Using Simple Technology to Engage Parents in Early Childhood Development (30 mins)</i></p> <p>Mr. Courtney Lawes, EngagedKids</p> <p><i>Jolly Phonics: Sustaining the Teaching of Literacy (1.5 hours)</i></p> <p>Mr. Devon Headley, Brian's Bookstores Limited</p>	<p><i>Exploring the Accessibility of Jamaican Preschool Playgrounds for Children with Physical Disabilities</i></p> <p>Ms. Valmarie Smith, Early Childhood Commission</p>
1:10pm - 2:30pm	Lunch and Booths		
Workshop Session 2 2:30m - 4:30pm	<p><i>Beyond ABC: Building Strong Early Literacy Skills in the Early Years</i></p> <p>Ms. Pearlyn Burrell, Cayman Islands Early Childhood Association</p>	<p><i>Writing as a Community Practice</i></p> <p>Dr. Zoyah Kinkead-Clark, School of Education UWI, & Ms. Shalene Kinkead-Cope, Shortwood Teachers' College</p>	<p><i>Responsive, Intentional Infant and Toddler Play Environments Through Sensitive Care, Play-Based Curriculum, and Positive Engagement</i></p> <p>Ms. Colette Kane & Ms. Gail Hunter, George Brown College</p>

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Schedule for Friday, November 9			
7:30am - 8:30am	Registration		
	Negril Meeting Room	Ocho Rios Meeting Room	Port Antonio Meeting Room
Workshop Session 1 8:30am - 10:30am	<i>Elevating the Conversation in Classrooms: How to Promote Higher Order Thinking</i> Dr. Stephanie Curenton, Boston University	<i>What Does S.T.E.A.M Look Like in the Jamaican Early Childhood Classroom?</i> Ms. Rochelle Ferguson, Bloom Early Childhood Centre of Excellence Jamaica (STEAM Project sponsored by GraceKennedy Foundation)	<i>The Implications of Play in Early Childhood Development</i> Ms. Georgia Rose, The UWI Western Jamaica Campus
10:30am - 11:15am	Coffee Break		
Workshop Session 2 11:15am - 1:15pm	<i>Why Early Moments Matter – UNICEF Resources to Strengthen the Home/School Connection</i> Dr. Rebecca Tortello, UNICEF	<i>Responsive, Intentional Infant and Toddler Play Environments Through Sensitive Care, Play-Based Curriculum, and Positive Engagement</i> Ms. Colette Kane & Ms. Gail Hunter, George Brown College	<i>Developing Imagery for Language-Based Learning</i> Ms. Mary MacDonald, Creative Language-Based Learning
1:15pm - 2:45pm	Lunch and Booths		
2:45pm - 4:15pm	The Way Forward		

ORGANISERS' PROFILE

The Dudley Grant Memorial Trust

The Dudley Grant Memorial Trust (DGMT) was established in 1989 to commemorate the life and work of the late Mr. D.R.B Grant whose death in 1988 ended an illustrious career in the field of education.

Mr. Grant's commitment, and significant contribution to Early Childhood Development (ECD), locally, regionally and internationally highlighted his career. He is frequently referred to as the "Father of Early Childhood Development" in Jamaica because of his extensive work in this area with policy makers, teachers, parents and children at a time when ECD was not identified as a development priority. The Bernard van Leer Foundation, which funds ECD programmes worldwide, provided a small grant, which was used as seed money to establish the Trust in recognition of Mr. Grant's contribution as an outstanding trailblazer and pioneer in ECD in Jamaica.

DGMT's Mission Statement is "To be a centre of excellence whose primary function is to advocate on behalf of Early Childhood Development in Jamaica".

Caribbean Child Development Centre, The University of the West Indies Open Campus

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) is a unit of the Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR) of The University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus. It officially opened its doors in 1975, with support from UNICEF and the Government of Jamaica (GoJ), as the Regional Preschool Training Centre which had responsibility to promote the development of early childhood education and preschool services throughout the English-speaking Caribbean. The Regional Preschool activities involved sensitising regional early childhood administrators and policy makers to the needs of the young child through programme development, training and hosting of seminars. A research agenda informed and guided the work of the Centre from inception and continues to do so now.

CCDC's mandate is to provide support for the holistic development for Caribbean children, from birth to 18 years, through:

- Research: including collaborative research to inform policy and programme development;
- Teaching/Training
- Networking: Information management and information dissemination;
- Public service and promotion of the best possible outcomes for children.

The School of Education, The University of the West Indies, Mona

The School of Education, The University of the West Indies, Mona delivers undergraduate and graduate courses in education, both face to face and online, to students in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. The School provides national and regional teacher education development and quality assurance services to Teachers' Colleges and Ministries of Education via the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE).

The School of Education has a threefold mission:

- Preparing educators for national and regional education systems
- Conducting research on educational issues and concerns and providing data to inform the educational decision-making process
- Providing leadership in institutional development and programme quality to education systems.

A wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in education are offered by the School of Education via various delivery modes. The School's activities also include programmes that address critical areas of need such as understanding children's temperament and the implications for learning and behaviour modification and the assessment and treatment of exceptionalities.

The SOE is organised into four Research and Teaching clusters namely:

- Communication and Arts Education
- Applied Science Education
- Foundations of Teaching and Learning;
- Social Science Education, Leadership and Policy



Workshops

BEYOND ABC: BUILDING STRONG EARLY LITERACY SKILLS IN THE EARLY YEARS

Ms. Pearlyn Burrell, Cayman Islands Early Childhood Association

Beyond ABC workshop was developed specifically for educators of 3-5 year-olds, and offers practical, immediately usable strategies that fit naturally into everyday conversation and activities and that can be used with families. It will focus on promoting the following six building blocks of literacy: oral language, vocabulary, story comprehension, language learning, print knowledge, and phonological awareness.

DEVELOPING IMAGERY FOR LANGUAGE-BASED LEARNING

Ms. Mary MacDonald, Creative Language-Based Learning

Creative Language-Based Learning will look at activities and language to help build orthographic and phonological awareness for letters and sounds. We will look at single letters up to simple syllables and sight words, as well as ways of developing visualisation for both oral and written language for comprehension and critical thinking.

ELEVATING THE CONVERSATION IN CLASSROOMS: HOW TO PROMOTE HIGHER ORDER THINKING

Dr. Stephanie Curenton, Boston University

Participants will learn how to elevate the conversation in early childhood classrooms by using questions effectively and encouraging groups of children to work together in peer groups where they talk about how to solve problems.

EXPLORING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF JAMAICAN PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Ms. Valmarie Smith, Early Childhood Commission

This workshop will highlight the extent to which play spaces in early childhood institutions are accessible and inclusive for children with mobility challenges, and explore meaningful gross motor activities that will include children with physical challenges in the early childhood setting.

JOLLY PHONICS: SUSTAINING THE TEACHING OF LITERACY

Mr. Devon Headley, Brian's Bookstores Limited

The workshop will examine the strategies employed by the programme to get early learners ready for literacy as well as the multi-sensory approach, the deliberate scaffolding support and the progressive literacy strategy. Participants will be provided with tips and strategies that they can use, with or without the programme.

RESPONSIVE, INTENTIONAL INFANT AND TODDLER PLAY ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH SENSITIVE CARE, PLAY-BASED CURRICULUM, AND POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Colette Kane & Ms. Gail Hunter, George Brown College

Participants will examine practices that support well being and development of infants and toddlers in play-based environments. The workshop will delve into educators' strategies on how to be responsive, and intentional in communications and curriculum development. They will also discuss ways to engage and support families in understanding the power of positive interactions and understand the value of play.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF PLAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Georgia Rose, The UWI Western Jamaica Campus

In this workshop, participants will participate in practical 'play' strategies to promote early childhood development along all three developmental domains and be able to identify developmental domains in play. At the end of the workshop, participants should have an increased understanding of the concept of play in early childhood and the impact of play on early childhood development along the physical, cognitive and socio-emotive domains.

USING SIMPLE TECHNOLOGY TO ENGAGE PARENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Courtney Lawes, EngagedKids

This workshop will introduce Engagedkids, a mobile application (App) that supports the engagement of parents in a child's learning and development. The app provides a secure and comprehensive information and communication platform for Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs) and parents. Parents from all socioeconomic strata can track and monitor the development of their child.

WHAT DOES S.T.E.A.M LOOK LIKE IN THE JAMAICAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM?

**Ms. Rochelle Ferguson, Bloom Early Childhood Centre of Excellence Jamaica
(Project sponsored by GraceKennedy Foundation)**

In this workshop, participants will participate in practical 'play' strategies to promote early childhood development along all three developmental domains and be able to identify developmental domains in play. At the end of the workshop, participants should have an increased understanding of the concept of play in early childhood and the impact of play on early childhood development along the physical, cognitive and socio-emotive domains.

WHY EARLY MOMENTS MATTER - UNICEF RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN THE HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Dr. Rebecca Tortello, UNICEF

This session will feature the screening of a 90-minute award-winning film, The Beginning of Life, and a Q&A session using related discussion materials. The impact of children's early environments on their cognitive, social and emotional development will be explored and available practical resources, shared.

WRITING AS A COMMUNITY PRACTICE

**Dr. Zoyah Kinkead-Clark, School of Education UWI & Ms. Shalene Kinkead-Cope,
Shortwood Teachers' College**

This workshop will focus on ways writing can be developed in the early years classrooms. Emphasis will be placed on the use of interactive writing, journaling and the inclusion of writing centres as means to support holistic literacy skills.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

