THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SECTOR:

JAMAICA

PLANS AND TARGETS

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information
Hon. Floyd Green, M.P.
February 2017
Early Childhood Commission: Legislated Functions for children 0-8 yrs.

- Advise Minister of Education on ECD Policy
- Convene consultations with stakeholders
- Co-ordinate and monitor ECD Programmes
- Identify sources of funding for EC sector
- Regulate and Monitor Early Childhood Institutions (0-6 yrs.)
- Conduct Research on ECD
- Provide information to public on ECD status
• Effective parenting education and support

• Effective preventative health care

• Early and effective screening, diagnosis and intervention for ‘at risk’ children

• The provision of safe, learner-centred, well-maintained ECI facilities

• Effective curriculum delivery
PARENTING

To provide parents with accessible and high quality parent education and support allowing for optimal development of children
Parenting Achievements 2003-2016

- Initiation of the National Parenting Policy (Approved by Parliament 2012), and the subsequent establishment of the National Parenting Support Commission (NPSC)
- Development and Piloting of National Parenting Strategy (Parents’ Places)
- Development of National Parenting Programme Standards (Quality Assurance)
- Certification of 20% of EC Parenting Programmes
- Mapping of Parenting and Child Services for young children
- Development and implementation of Public Education Programme on Parenting at the EC level
Parenting 2013-2018: Expanding Access

- Assess quality of all existing EC Parenting Programmes
  - 25% by 2013-14
  - 30% by 2014-15
  - 45% by 2017-18

- Ensure adequate parent training facilitators for new Parents’ Places
  - Map existing trained facilitators
  - Rationalise training programmes

- Establishment of new Parents’ Places at Resource Centres (2 in operation), Schools and Health Centres
  - 4 additional Parents Places at Resource Centres by 2013-14
  - 8 additional Parents Places at Resource Centres by 2014-15

- All in collaboration with National Parent Support Commission
To enhance the preventive health care services (well child clinics) through improvement in human resources, facilities, public education and monitoring of child health and development status.
Child Health and Nutrition Achievements 2003-2013: HEALTH

- Development and national implementation of the Child Health and Development Passport (with MOH)

- Development of an accreditation system for well child clinics: screening, stimulation
Child Health and Nutrition Achievements 2003-2013: Nutrition

- Development of Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy
- Development of a Nutrition Support Strategy for children 4-6 years at ECIs, including lunch menus and recipes
- Piloting of breakfast programme at ECIs
Child Health and Nutrition 2013-2018

- **Continued improvement in the quality of well-child care**
  - In collaboration with MOH, equip and refurbish health centres for focus on parenting and early stimulation

- **Monitoring health and development age 0-6 yrs**
  - Improve effectiveness of use of the CHDP in identifying and supporting children who have additional needs by training ECI practitioners

- **Nutrition**
  - Review of Breakfast Programme Pilot, develop national implementation Plan
  - Development and implementation of Nutrition Strategy 0-3 years
  - Plan phased implementation of 4-6 year Nutrition Lunch Strategy
To develop a system that allows early identification of and appropriate intervention for families and children at risk, including children with special needs.
Families and Children At Risk: Achievements 2003-2016

- **National Use of Screening Tools (Ten/Eleven Question Screen):**
  - Child Health and Development Passport
  - Early Stimulation Programme

- **Development of 3 Jamaica-specific and Psychometrically Tested Screening Tools**
  - Family Risk Screening Tool: To identify families at risk
  - Child Development Screening Tool: To identify children at develop./behav. risk
  - Four Year Old Readiness Evaluation: To identify pre-school children who need evaluation and intervention

- **Development of Associate Degree in Child Development Therapy**
  A training programme which produces professionals who can support young children with special needs
Families and Children At Risk I: 2013-2018

- Implementation of screening and intervention systems
  - Implementation of Four Year Old Readiness Tool to be piloted 2013-2014 academic year and to be nationally implemented 2014-2015
  - Development of Resource Centres as parish hubs for assessment of children with special needs at the EC level
  - Implementation of Family Risk Tool at the same time as Four Year old Readiness Tool in 2015-2016 academic year

- Ensure Professionals to support children with special needs
  - Expand Associate Degree in Child Development Therapy programme
  - Expand partnerships with Private Sector entities in supporting training of ECI teachers in special needs
QUALITY SCHOOLS

To improve the quality of services offered by early childhood institutions
# Distribution of ECIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECI Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Day Care</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Day Care/Nursery</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-School / Nursery</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery/Kindergarten/Preparatory School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-School/Basic School</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten/ Preparatory School</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Department</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant School</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic School</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2661</td>
<td>100.1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Quality ECIs: Achievements 2003-2017

- Development of standards for ECIs
- Employment and training of EC Inspectors
- Development of a regulatory system for ECIs, including application and inspection systems
- ECI staff trained in health and safety requirements
- Improvement in ECI health and safety status, as indicated by increasing proportion of Permits to Operate issued with time
- ECI reports publicly available on ECC website.
- Reports provide framework for support to ECIs by private sector
Possible Outcomes of Inspection Process

- **Recommendation for closure**
  - Occurs when an ECI breaches critical health and safety standards, which place children or staff at risk.
  - In practice, ECC has contacted the relevant authority to take action when these types of breaches are identified.

- **Issue of Permit to Operate**
  - Issued when no significant health and safety breaches identified.
  - Accompanied by a report which identifies the areas required for improvement under the law.

- **Full Registration**
  - A Certificate of Registration, valid for five (5) years is issued when an ECI meets all legal standards.
# Health and Safety Outcome of Inspections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspection Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Satisfactory No</th>
<th>Satisfactory %</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory No</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory %</th>
<th>Not Inspected No</th>
<th>Not Inspected %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Health Report</td>
<td>2525</td>
<td>1199</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>16.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Establishment Report</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1048</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>19.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Safety Report</td>
<td>2525</td>
<td>1468</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Record Report</td>
<td>12,416</td>
<td>9589</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>2791</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Cumulative Permits to Operate by Year
Quality ECIs: 2013-2018

- Effective standards for inspection systems
- Support ECIs to meet standards
- Continued Implementation of National ECI Rationalization Programme
QUALIFIED TEACHERS and RELEVANT CHILD CURRICULA

To ensure that teachers are highly trained in early childhood development
Quality Teachers & Appropriate Curricula: Achievements 2003-2013

- Administrative advancements
- Employment and training of development officers to provide curriculum support to ECIs
- Revision of NCTVET programmes
- Increase in proportion of Trained ECI Staff
- Children’s Curriculum Development
### Educational Level of ECI Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Level of Education Attained</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
<td>4642</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary - Diploma</td>
<td>1299</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary - Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary - Masters Degree</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to be Verified</td>
<td>1041</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8872</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality Teachers & Appropriate Curricula: 2013-2018

- Effective Staffing Strategy for ECIs
- Ensure quality teaching of approved curriculum
- Use of Age 4 Readiness Evaluation
- Ensure seamless transition to primary level
FINANCING ECD

To improve contributions to ECD by public and private sectors
## EC Education Expenditure by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Early Childhood Education</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-6</td>
<td>2,050,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-7</td>
<td>1,878,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-8</td>
<td>2,164,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-9</td>
<td>1,994,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>2,706,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>3,278,720</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>2,469,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>2,567,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>2,607,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financing ECD 2013-2018

Public Sector
- Reallocation of existing Education Budget internally
- Request for further support for ECD from Country Budget

Private Sector
- Engage Private sector
  - Development of models for investment
  - Continue to support existing investments in partnership with ECC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECD Policy Goal</th>
<th>Policy Lever</th>
<th>Level of Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing an Enabling Environment</td>
<td>Legal Framework</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Widely</td>
<td>Scope of Programs</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coverage</td>
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<td>Equity</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Assuring Quality</td>
<td>Data Availability</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality Standards</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compliance with Standards</td>
<td>⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- **Latent**: ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️
- **Emerging**: ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️
- **Established**: ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️
- **Advanced**: ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️ ⬜️