ROVING CAREGIVERS PROGRAMME IN JAMAICA
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

• The RCP began in 1992 in the parish of Clarendon

• It is part of the Teenage Mothers Project

• The project has since evolved into the Rural Family Support Organization
WHAT IS RCP? (Roving Caregivers Programme)

- This home visiting project was designed to:
  - Provide early stimulation to child and mother
  - Provide training to a cadre young caregivers
  - Provide intervention for families with children from birth – three years
  - Assist families without access to formal Early Childhood Education
  - Equip Caregivers/Rovers to work in their home communities
UNIQUENESS OF RCP

• It is home-based
• Low cost
• Easily replicated
• Creates employment
• School leavers are engaged
PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES OF RCP

• Offers early stimulation to young children

• Recruits and trains caregivers

• Ensures the transfer of knowledge and skills to families and communities
PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

• The Project was funded by BVLF, UNICEF, EFJ

• Implemented by Joyce Jarrett

• Guided by Huub Schreurs
AREAS OF OPERATION

• RCP operates in poor rural communities

• 43 communities are served by the project

• 25 caregivers service the various communities
AREAS OF OPERATION
SELECTION AND TRAINING OF CAREGIVERS

• Graduates of Secondary schools with at least 2 CXC passes

• Extensive training is provided to prepare them to work in the field

• Orientation and Workshops provide additional support as well as Quarterly Training and Day Long Fortnightly training
SELECTION AND TRAINING OF CAREGIVERS

• Topics covered in training include:

- Play and the Young Child
- The Curiosity of the Toddler
- Creative expression
HOME VISITS

• This forms the core of the RCP

• Appointments are made with parents, grandparents and aunts

• There is communication between Officer and caregiver for easy contact

• The caregivers work with approximately 30 children for 45 minutes to an hour
WHAT CAREGIVERS DO?

• Engage children in age appropriate stimulation activities

• Teach parents to replicate activities

• Discuss child related issues—maintaining clean environment; immunizations

• Start Parent Support Groups
PARENTS PARTICIPATION

• Parents should be present during home visits

• They should participate in stimulation activities

• They should work with caregivers

• Income Generating activities may provide or sustain parents in remote areas
REPLICATION OF RCP

• It has been replicated in the parishes of St. Catherine, Manchester and St. Thomas

• It has been incorporated in the Integration Policy: ECU/MOE – GOJ

• The RCP is replicated in Eastern Caribbean Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent
REPLICATION OF RCP
OUTCOMES

• Model of care developed for most vulnerable children in rural areas

• Impacts the lives of approximately
  1500 – 2000 children
  1200 – 1500 parents annually

• Since inception, the programme has reached approximately
  24,000 children
  20,000 parents
That's IT