THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

‘CREATING A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN’
PRESENTERS

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

May 14-18, 2007

Inter American Symposium
VISION 2020 Draft National Strategic Plan: “A Model for Development”

Government’s focus on early education through “comprehensive provision for child care” (vision 2020 page 5)
Contextual Background

- The Millennium Development Goals
- The Goals of the world fit for children
- The UN convention on the rights of the child
- UNESCO’s Education for All Goals
- The Caribbean Plan of Action
Contextual Background

- Government’s Vision 2020
- National Legislation - the Education Act
  - the Public Order Act
  - the Public Ordinance
  - Chapter 12
- the Environment Management Authority
Collaboration of Services

• Champions of the collaborative process are: all the Ministries, and other stakeholders under the umbrella of the National Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCECCE)
Ministry of Education

- Mandate for National Human development.
- Alignment of key activities of the Ministry of Education to meet set goals for National Human development.

Strategic Initiatives
- Seamless Education System including ECCE
- Restructuring and Transformation of the Sector
• Curriculum Reform
• Student Support Services
• Teacher Professional Development
• National Model for Education
Early Childhood Care and Education

- Early childhood care and education offers support, learning, care and development for children under six. It includes all settings providing informal programmes to children, families, and communities. The settings include: day care centres, ECCE centres, nursery schools, and kindergartens.
Early Childhood Care and Education

• The MOE’s seamless approach to education has placed ECCE among priorities to drive modernization and transformation process.

• Facilitates smooth transition from ECCE to the tertiary level.

• Seamless movement of students as they acquire the requisite knowledge, skills, dispositions and attitudes required for success.
Early Childhood Care and Education

- State involvement since 1970
- Collaborative Alliance with NGOs and Community Based Groups
- Development of sector influenced by global, regional and national initiatives
- Emphasis on access, quality and equity
### Access: Birth to Three Enrollment
**(National Survey, 2002)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. George</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>072</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroni</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>037</td>
<td>000</td>
<td>222</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Eastern</td>
<td>010</td>
<td>009</td>
<td>000</td>
<td>019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>067</td>
<td>008</td>
<td>192</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>035</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>000</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>068</td>
<td>038</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1012</strong></td>
<td><strong>224</strong></td>
<td><strong>012</strong></td>
<td><strong>1248</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Quality Standards for Children from Birth to Three

- Infant and Toddler Care
- Interaction
- Organisation
- Physical Resources
- Learning Opportunity
- Observation, Record-Keeping and Planning
- Rest Period
- Transition
### Access: Three to Five
**Distribution by Centre Type and Student Population (ECCE Survey Report 2004-2005)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational District</th>
<th>Gov’t and Gov’t Assisted Centres</th>
<th>Private Centres</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O.S &amp; Environs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St George East</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>247</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Eastern</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>384</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroni</td>
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<td>806</td>
<td>131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1068</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Trinidad</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
<td><strong>5599</strong></td>
<td><strong>769</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</strong></td>
<td><strong>170</strong></td>
<td><strong>6179</strong></td>
<td><strong>805</strong></td>
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</table>
National ECCE Policy Initiatives

- Development of the National ECCE Curriculum Guide
- Teacher Development Policy
- Governance and Management Policy
- Universal Access for 30,000 children
National ECCE Policy Initiatives

- Universal access for 30,000 children.
- National Policy on Standards for Regulating Early Childhood Services
- Construction of 600 standardized centres
- Legislative Reform - Education Act

National Standards
National ECCE Policy Initiatives

Governance and Management Policy

- Capacity Building
- Improved economic status-increased wages
- Provision of adequate and appropriate resources
Resources at ECCECentre

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The Way Forward

- Learning from shared experiences
- Policy development for 0-3 years
- Full development of the ECCE Sector from 0-5 years
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Policies and Services for Young Children Under Three Years
Ministry of Health

Policies and Manuals
- Maternal and Child Health Manual for Trinidad and Tobago
- Prevention of mother to child Transmission (HIV) Policy (PMTCT) (Draft)
- Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Policy (Draft)
- National Breast Feeding Policy (Draft)
- Immunization Manual for Health Professionals 3rd Ed.
- Public Health (Nursery School and Primary School Immunization) Act Chap. 28:03
- National School Health Policy (Draft)
Trinidad and Tobago has adopted the “continuum of care” approach to maternal, neonatal and child health which span from antenatal, childbirth, postpartum into childhood.

Emphasis is placed on antenatal and postnatal care and care of the newborn

Pregnant women are given free antenatal care.
Blood testing for Hb, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
Iron and folic acid tablets given to all pregnant women.
Services Provided...

- Health education given on topics pertaining to the stage of pregnancy, nutrition and the importance of breast feeding.
- Six weeks appointment for post natal examination of infants and mothers. Home visits to infants and mother after birth.
- Exclusive breast feeding from birth to 6 months encouraged.
- Surveillance of babies born with low birth weight.
- Monitoring of growth and development 0-5 years.
- Baby friendly hospitals.
- Infants born to HIV+ mothers provided with milk formula every month (Replacement Feed Assistance).
Services Provided...

- Children are referred to specialist. Growth monitoring and assessment.

- Oral care from 2 1/2 years, oral examination, counseling on brushing techniques, nutrition and healthy snacks.

- Expanded Programme of Immunization schedule is designed to have all infants comprehensively immunized against the vaccine preventable diseases.
### IMMUNIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOSE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TYPE OF IMMUNIZATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1ST</td>
<td>3MTHS</td>
<td>PENTAVALENT ORAL POLIO</td>
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<tr>
<td>2ND</td>
<td>4-5MTHS</td>
<td>PENTAVALENT ORAL POLIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3RD</td>
<td>6MTHS</td>
<td>PENTAVALENT ORAL POLIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1ST BOOSTERS</td>
<td>1-2 YEARS</td>
<td>YELLOW FEVER, MMR,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DPT, ORAL, POLIO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inter-Disciplinary Child Development Centre.

- Inter-Disciplinary Child Development Centre is a project of the Ministry of Health. It is the only one of its kind in the country.
- The object of the centre was to develop within one complex a variety of social services for the preschool child.
Inter-Disciplinary Child Development Centre.

- The functions of the centre are to provide early child health services to include breast feeding.
- To provide a day care centre and a nursery school.
- To offer research and training in early child hood stimulation.
Sick Children Specialist Services

- Port of Spain General Hospital – Neonatal Care Unit.

- Ministry of Health provides free Antiretroviral Treatment to persons with HIV/AIDS accessing the Public Health Facilities
Sick Children Specialist Services

- Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC): Pediatric Care and specialist services such as Oncology, cardiology.

- EWMSC TELEHEALTH initiative launched in 2005. It provides local health professionals with connections to consultants from the sick children hospital in Toronto Canada.
The Ministry of Development is the core social sector Ministry responsible for coordinating the implementation of Government’s social development objectives. Our overarching goal is to ensure the effective functioning of the social sector, towards improving the standard of living of all citizens – particularly those at risk.
SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY -
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

- Income Support for Families
  - Public Assistance Grant
  - Conditional Cash Transfer Programme
  - Subventions to Non-Governmental Organizations
SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY - FOCUS ON FAMILY

• National Policy on the Family

• Parenting Education Programmes:
  ➢ National Parenting Programme
  ➢ Support Programme for Parents
  ➢ Adolescent Mothers programme
POVERTY REDUCTION

• Improvement of delivery of poverty reduction services through Regional Social Human Development Councils:
  ➢ Micro-project fund
  ➢ Micro-credit fund
  ➢ Network of information and resource centres
POVERTY REDUCTION

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  ➢ Micro-project fund
  ➢ Micro-credit fund
  ➢ Network of information and resource centres
POVERTY REDUCTION

- Strengthening of the Institutional Framework for poverty reduction

- Strengthening of the information system on poverty and poverty reduction programmes
IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE NATION’S CHILDREN THROUGH LEGISLATION

- The Children’s Amendment Act
- The Children’s Community Residence, Foster Homes and Nurseries Amendment Act
- Adoption of Children Amendment Act
- Status of Children Amendment Bill
- Family Court Bill
- International Child Abduction Bill
- The Children’s Authority Act
IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE NATION’S CHILDREN THROUGH COORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES

National Plan of Action for Children

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The National Plan of Action for Children identifies 4 major priority areas for action across the Governmental and Non-Governmental sectors:

- Promoting Healthy Lives
  - Providing Quality Education
  - Protecting Against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence
  - Combating HIV/AIDS
The Government of Trinidad and Tobago
Creating a World Fit For Children

• Socially, our human resources have been given high priority in the development of national strategies which are outlined in the Government’s strategic plan for development as articulated in the Vision 2020 document. The goal is to improve the quality of life of all citizens through poverty eradication, universal access to education ensuring equity and quality, empowerment of women and universal access to high quality health services.
Collaboration of Services

• All the Ministries and Tobago House of Assembly are involved in the process.

• There is a national collaborative approach across all ministries towards achieving national development.
Collaboration of Services

- Emphasis is placed on the family structure and communities, as well as education and the health of the people.
Thank you

THE END
Trinidad and Tobago is a twin-island Republic at the southern-most end of the Caribbean archipelago, with a population of approximately 1.3 million people of diverse races. This diversity has a significant impact on the national policy initiatives of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago which are premised on a philosophy of inclusion regardless of ethnicity, gender or social background.
A Model for Development

• Trinidad and Tobago has articulated “Vision 2020” -- a programme for the economic, political and social development of the country – whereby Trinidad and Tobago will attain developed country status by the Year 2020.

• Five development priorities have been identified and central to the achievement of these priorities is the development of innovative people. Since the strong link to human resource development is the quality of the education system, the Ministry of Education has been given the mandate for creating the enabling environment that will facilitate the achievement of national human development. The Millennium Development Goal and the goals of the “World Fit for Children” document are in cohesion with our vision for a caring society by the year 2020:”citizens are well educated, embrace diversity and have their basic and special needs adequately and