

## **CARIBBEAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011-2012**

### **WORK OF THE SECTION**

During this Academic year, the Head of the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), Professor Julie Meeks Gardner proceeded on one year sabbatical leave. CCDC continued to work on research, teaching and training, and outreach activities under the guidance of the Acting Head, Mrs. Ceceile Minott. The focus this year was on completing the projects which started during the previous reporting period and continuing to seek opportunities for research and new projects, as well as working on early childhood training programmes and centres across the Open Campus.

The projects which continued were within our core areas of violence and HIV matters relating to children, early childhood development and child rights training. We completed the following projects:

- 1) Child Rights Training Sustainability Initiative with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), funded by UNICEF - Child Rights training was provided to 374 staff members working in juvenile services and 202 wards in custody. In addition, 17 other DCS staff members were trained as child rights trainers and four have emerged as lead trainers to continue the child rights training programme within the DCS.
- 2) Strengthening the Caribbean Early Childhood Development Network, funded by UNESCO – This included the upgrading of the CaribECD website; hosting of four teleconferences with an attendance ranging from 56 - 105 persons representing 13 countries; and the preparation and distribution of the annual issues CaribECD Link e-Newsletter.
- 3) Learning Outcomes for Early Childhood Development in the Caribbean, funded by UNICEF - This encompassed the reprinting of 500 copies of *Learning Outcomes for Early Childhood Development in the Caribbean: A Handbook for Practitioners*, distribution across Jamaica, and ‘how to use’ orientation workshop delivered island-wide to ECC and ECD stakeholders via Open Campus Distance Learning Centres.

During the period under review a number of collaborative activities were also undertaken with other Open Campus sections, UWI campuses or departments, partner universities and institutions.

- We partnered with the Open Campus Academic Programming and Delivery (APAD) department to develop the Early Childhood and Family Studies Degree, Diploma and Certificate programmes, within which the Child Rights course developed by CCDC will be offered.
- In light of our successes with using the Open Campus teleconference facility to share information across the Caribbean, we collaborated with The McCam Child Development

Centre to host the 4th International Conference on Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder under the theme 'Working Towards Positive Outcomes' and shared with a number of the UWI OC Country sites.

- For the sixth consecutive year we partnered with the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Research and other agencies in the hosting of the Caribbean Child Research Conference and continued to lead the pre-conference teacher and child training seminars in Research Methods and Child Rights.
- CCDC also continues to host, in partnership with the Child Development Research Group of the Tropical Medicine Research Institute, the Secretariat of the Global Child Development Group.
- In a new initiative we partnered with the Anglia Ruskin University, UK to successfully secure funding from the British Academy for a series of exchange activities aimed at developing a proposal for youth violence and gang research.

## **RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCIES**

1) UNICEF Regional offices contacted the CSDR Director's Office to conduct the follow up study to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children (UNSVAC). The study focused on the status of implementation of 3 of the 12 recommendations from the 2006 study and was expanded to 17 Caribbean countries. CCDC undertook the lead role in the implementation of the project which should be completed by August 31, 2012. The consultancy is valued at US\$35,000.

2) As a spin off from the UNSVAC consultancy, CCDC was approached by the UNICEF Regional Office to provide technical assistance in organizing delegate travel to the UNVAC Sub-Regional Meeting in Jamaica in May 2012. This contract was valued at US\$55,401.

3) Updating of the CCDC database of early childhood education, care and development (ECECD) programmes and courses offered throughout the English-speaking Caribbean continued.

4) Proposals were developed, and sent to UNESCO to conduct a client survey and establish HFLE website, and CHASE for re-establishing the Early Childhood Centre at CCDC as a training/practicum site for ECD students across the Caribbean.

5) The UWI Open Campus through CCDC collaborated with UWI Consulting to win the tender for the project, *Review and Evaluation of ICT in Education Policy and Curriculum, and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity in St. Lucia*. February 2012.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Journal Articles***

1. Walker, S.P., Wachs, T.D., Grantham-McGregor, S., Black, M.M., Nelson, C.A., Huffman, S.L., Baker-Henningham, H., Chang, S.M., Hamadani, J.D., Lozoff, B., **Meeks Gardner, J.M.**, Powell, C.A., Rahman, A., Richter, L. (2011) Inequality in early childhood: risk and protective factors for early child development. *The Lancet Series Special Issue: Child Development in Developing Countries 2. Published September 23, 2011*

#### *Newsletters*

1. **Gallimore, H., Campbell, M., Sawyers, K., Minott, C.**, Grant, D. (2011). *CaribECD Link E-Newsletter. Vol.14* (Early Childhood Development Throughout the Region)
2. **Sawyers, K., Minott, C., Campbell, M., Thomas, J., Gallimore, H.** (2011). Caribbean Child Development Centre E-Newsletter.

#### **STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Members of staff continued to carry out activities outside of regular duties:

- 1) Ceceile Minott, the Acting Head provided technical assistance to the UWI Health Centre in developing and implementing a telephone/online counselling service for UWI Mona students and staff.
- 2) Ceceile Minott, provided technical support to the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) in reviewing sample lessons plan for the early childhood practitioners in Jamaica.
- 3) Ms. Kisha Sawyers, the Librarian, represented CCDC at the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica booth during the UWI Mona Campus Research and Career Day activities. January 2012.
- 4) Marva Campbell, Programme Officer, organised and facilitated the CCDC staff planning retreats held in February and July 2012.
- 5) Marva Campbell and Joan Thomas served as markers for Secondary School research papers, submitted for the Caribbean Child Researcher Conference student award. October 2011.

#### *Conference presentations and attendance*

##### *Invited presentations*

##### Meeks Gardner, J.

1. Meeks Gardner, J. *Early Child Development in Developing Countries: Recent Evidence for Risk and Protective Factors*. Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology. Nassau, Bahamas. November 15-18, 2011.
2. Meeks Gardner, J. *Youth Violence Interventions*. Regional UNSVAC Conference Kingston, Jamaica. May 14-15, 2012.

##### Minott, C.

1. *Early Childhood Development – Training Opportunities in the University of the West Indies Open Campus Country Sites*. The Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development. St. Kitts. April 2-4, 2012.
2. *Sustainability through Partnerships*. The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre Learning Through Play International Conference. Toronto Canada. May 23-29, 2012.
3. *UNSVAC follow-up study progress report*. Regional UNSVAC conference. Kingston, Jamaica. May 14-15, 2012.

***Presentations to academic conferences***

Minott, C.

1. *Early Childhood Development – Training Opportunities in the Caribbean*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica. October 19-20, 2011.
2. *Public policies which promote child rights in Jamaica*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica. October 19-20, 2011.

Thomas, J.

3. *HIV/Stigma and Children's education in Guyana*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica. October 19-20, 2011.
4. *Social competence among Jamaican Adolescent mothers*. Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica. October 19-20, 2012.
5. *HIV-related Stigma and Children's School Outcomes in the Caribbean*. Presented at the Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology. Bahamas. November 15-21, 2011.
6. *HIV-related Stigma and Children's School Outcomes in St. Lucia*. St. Lucia Country Conference, St. Lucia. May 2-4, 2012.

**Conferences and Workshops attended**

Minott, C.

1. Inaugural Parliament on Early Childhood Education, Shortwood Teachers' College. Kingston, Jamaica. May 10, 2012.
2. Regional Meeting on Protecting Children of the Caribbean from Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston, Jamaica. July 6-7, 2011.

3. Government of Jamaica/UNICEF Country Programme Plan 2012 to 2016. March 15, 2012
4. Regional Consultation on Early Childhood Development, CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood Development meeting. St. Kitts and Nevis, April 2-4, 2012.

Campbell, M

5. Project Management Institute 9th Annual Conference on Scheduling, New York. May 6 to 9, 2012.

Minott, C. & Campbell, M.

6. HLSTUEI forum on Disaster Preparedness. July 12, 1012.

Minott, C., Thomas, J., Campbell, M.

7. 6th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference, Kingston, Jamaica. October 24 - 25, 2011

Minott, C., Thomas, J., Campbell, M., & Anaokar, P.

8. United Nations Violence Against Children Sub-Regional Conference. Kingston, Jamaica. May 14-15, 2012.

Thomas, J.,

9. Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology. Bahamas. November 15-18, 2011.

**Teaching/Training**

1. Joan Thomas, Research Fellow, contributed to teaching the BSc. in Psychology program at University of the West Indies Mona. She co-supervised 4 final year undergraduate psychology student doing their year-long research paper. The students carried out research to examine the need for *Programme Evaluation Training among Non-Government Organizations and at UWI Mona*.
2. Ms. Heather Gallimore continued as the Child Rights Associate of the CCDC, spearheading our Child Rights initiatives. Child Rights training was provided to 374 staff members working in juvenile services and 202 wards in custody. In addition, 17 staff members of The Department of Correctional Services were trained as child rights trainers and four have emerged as lead trainers to continue the child rights training programme within the DCS.

3. Ms. Heather Gallimore, prepared the Caribbean Link Newsletter (2011) and distribution to approximately 250 regional ECD stakeholders. She supervised the electronic forum (e-forum) that serves as an 'open meeting place' for ECD stakeholders on the CaribECD website, encouraging use of ICTs (also participated in renovation and re-launch of the CaribECD website).

#### *Presentations at Workshops and Training Sessions*

1. Gallimore, H. Understanding Children's Rights and Responsibilities. Presented to High school teachers and students at the pre-conference Activity for the Caribbean Child Research Conference, University of the West Indies, Mona. June 13, 2012.
2. Thomas, J. The Research Process. Presented to High school teachers and students at the pre-conference Activity for the Caribbean Child Research Conference, University of the West Indies, Mona. June 13, 2012.

#### **Student supervision**

During the reporting period, CCDC staff supervised students of various disciplines at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Of the students supervised 4 were interns (Table 1), whose assignments were geared at developing specific skills while contributing to targeted areas of Centre's work.

#### Thomas, J.

1. Simone Walker, MA (Communication for Social & Behaviour Change). Failed Families, Failed State: The prominence of street children in the Jamaican society. (Supervised student from June 6, 2011 – Present) On-going.
2. Trudy Thomas, MA (Communication for Social & Behaviour Change). Juvenile crime and social change in Trinidad and Tobago: A restorative approach. (Supervising student's correction to previously graded paper commencing December 1, 2011 - Present). On-going.
3. Sherice Roberts. Intern from University of Technology completing BSc in Hospitality Management. Updated Violence Prevention Programmes database. (May 2012 (40 hours))
4. Kai Matthews. Intern from UWI Mona completing Masters in Public Health. Her activities are on-going and include: a) Updating of databases on Violence and HIV programmes for children. b) Assist with the organizing of data gathered for analysis and reporting for UNICEF follow-up study on Violence against children. (Supervised student from July 9, 2012 – Present) On-going

Sawyers, K.

1. Alison Bowen, BEd. Intern from MICO University College in Library and Information Studies. Her activities included Records / archival management, updating CCDC mailing list, cataloguing library books, assisting with the redesign of the library brochure and updating website. (Feb. 6, 2012 – March 12, 2012)

Campbell, M.

1. Renee Brown, ACCA student intern. Stock taking and updating of stationery inventory, verifying location of fixed assets and updating schedules, file management - re-organizing and electronic archiving of records, assist with reconciliation of Banner outputs and local records. (Supervised student from July 23, 2012 – Present) On-going

**Student Research Thesis, Reports and Papers Examined**

Meeks Gardner, J.

1. Dawn Stephenson, PHD (Nutrition). *A Caregiver training intervention to enhance the development of children in child care facilities.*

Minott, C.

1. Natalie Pierre, M.A. (Research Methods). *To Stream or Not to Stream: An Investigation into the use of Streaming in one Secondary School in Grenada.* (External marker)

Thomas, J.

1. Kelly-Kim McCarthy, MA (Communication for Social & Behaviour Change). *Juvenile delinquency in Barbados: The perceived effectiveness of delinquency interventions by responding agencies.*
2. Sue-Anne Wallace, MA (Communication for Social & Behaviour Change). *Perceptions of young adults on faithfulness and partner reduction as viable components of HIV prevention efforts in Jamaica.*

**Table 1. Interns attached to the Caribbean Child Development Centre  
For the period August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Degrees</b>	<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Tasks assigned</b>
Sherice Roberts	University of Technology	BSc	Hospitality Management	40 hours	Updating of Violence Programmes Database
Alison Bowen	MICO University	BEd	Library and Information Studies	6 weeks	Archiving and Records Management, etc.
Kai Matthews	University of the West Indies	Masters	Public Health	6 weeks	Updating databases; Organizing data for analysis and reporting
Renee Brown	Accountancy Trainers College	Level 1	ACCA	5 weeks	Updating office inventories; records management

## Service to Open Campus and UWI

<b>Open Campus bodies:</b>	<b>University bodies:</b>
Academic Board - Ceceile Minott & Joan Thomas	
Web Development Team - Kisha Sawyers	UWI-MINET - Kisha Sawyers

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

1. Minott, C. - Attended the University of the West Indies (Trinidad), Faculty of Humanities and Education, Family Development & Children's Research Centre International Study Visit on *Intellectual Emergencies in Early Childhood Environments: An Assessment of Theory, Culture and Practice*. September 4 - 9, 2011.
2. Thomas, J. - Continued in the Ph.D program at the UWI Mona (Social Psychology).
3. Campbell, M. - Completed post-graduate course in Programme Monitoring and Evaluation at The UWI Mona.
4. Sawyers, K. - Completed Masters of Arts Library and Information Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona
5. Sawyers, K - Study Tour of libraries and museums in Phoenix, Georgia and Orlando (November 2011 and May 2012).

### **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

#### International

##### Meeks Gardner, J.:

1. CCDC is a key institution of **Childwatch International**, a network of research organizations that focus on children and children's issues comprising over 40 key institutions and many other associated institutions.
2. Steering Committee Member of the **Global Child Development Group (since 2006)**.

#### Regional

##### Minott, C.

1. UWI Vice Chancellor's representative on the CARICOM Working Group on Early Childhood.
2. Member of the Foundation for the Development of Caribbean Children Strategic Planning & Strategic Oversight Committee, the region's first indigenous, private foundation dedicated to early childhood development.



### Gallimore, H.

1. Member of the Alternative Education Group, a regional inter-disciplinary group advocating alternative (rights-based) educational approaches in the Americas and the Caribbean, led by colleagues in Puerto Rico.

### National

1. Campbell, M. - Member, Parenting Partners Caribbean - A group founded to promote better parenting practices throughout the Caribbean
2. Meeks Gardner, J. – Board Member Peace Management Initiative
3. Minott, C. - Member of the Board of the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust, a non-government organization which focuses on early childhood development in Jamaica.
4. Gallimore, H. - Jamaica National Children’s Home Board of Trustees Member and Chairperson, Human Resources Committee.
5. Thomas, J. - CCDC Representative at Violence Prevention Alliance - A network of Jamaican organizations working to prevent violence.

### **VISITORS AND LINKS**

1. The Minister of Education, The Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, accepted an invitation to breakfast at CCDC on April 24th, 2012. He participated in a tour of the facility and discussions on ECD in Jamaica.
2. CCDC collaborated with the McCam Child Development Care & Development Centre on hosting the 4th International Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder under the theme ‘Working Towards Positive Outcomes’ using the facility to share the conference with a number of the Country sites.
3. A group of 20 students from the George Brown College, Toronto, Canada visited CCDC on January 2, 2012. The students are on an exchange programme with the Shortwood Teachers’ College and George Brown College.
4. A group of educators from St. Kitts and Nevis, on a study tour for the Jamaica Social Investment Fund Bridge Programme visited the CCDC June 2012.

### Global Child Development Group

The former Steering Committee of the Lancet Series on Child Development was constituted into the Global Child Development Group, with funding support from the Bernard van Leer Foundation and GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). The secretariat is located at the Caribbean Child Development Centre, with coordination assistance from the Child Development Research Group of the UWI's Tropical Medicine Research Institute (TMRI).

The secretariat continued development of its interactive website sharing global information on child development initiatives and research, and has become an increasingly important international resource. During the year, an updated series was prepared reviewing recent evidence for the factors related to the early development of children in low and middle income countries, which was published in Lancet.

### **BENEFACTIONS**

During the year under review CCDC continued to source funding for programme activities and received project grants as highlighted in the table below.

**Table 2. CCDC Active Projects, 2011-2012 Academic Year**

<b>Title of Grant</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Value</b>	
			<b>in JA\$</b>	<b>in US\$</b>
<b>RESEARCH PROJECTS</b>				
United Nations Violence Against Children (UNVAC) Follow-up Study	UNICEF (TARCO)	April - Aug 2012		US\$35,000.
<b>OTHER PROJECTS</b>				
Child Rights Training Sustainability Initiative with Dept. of Correctional Services	UNICEF (JAM)	2011-2012	\$2,776,680.	
Strengthening Early Childhood Development in the Caribbean	UNESCO	2011-2012		US\$3,000.
UNVAC Sub-Regional Conference: Delegate travel arrangements	UNICEF(CAO)	May 14-15 2012		US\$55,400.
Global Child Development Group Secretariat	BvLF	Sept. to Dec. 2011		US\$29,372.
McCam Child Development Centre Annual Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) Conference	McCam Child Development Centre	May 3 & 4, 2012		US\$1800.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The work of the CCDC has been aligned to the Strategic Plan of the UWI since 2008. During the academic year 2011-2012 four core areas of strategic focus were targeted: Teaching and Learning; Graduate Studies; Research and Innovation; and Service to the UWI-12 and other underserved communities. In addition we contributed to the major enabler, ‘Transforming the...administrative culture and processes, and to the other areas of strategic importance, namely, strengthening regionality, strengthening national engagement processes, and international partnerships.’ Specific activities associated with these areas are listed in the respective sections, and also highlighted here.

The teaching and learning area was addressed through the development of the Bachelors in Education degree programme in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies which will be offered online. The Child Rights course, which was developed by CCDC, will be offered as a core course for the degree programme. Staff members and the wards in custody at the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in Jamaica were trained in Child Rights. We provided service to the UWI-12 by upgrading the CaribECD website and the hosting of four teleconferences focusing on strengthening the Caribbean Early Childhood sector. We also developed and distributed a CaribECD Link e-Newsletter.

Graduate studies remained an important part of our work, with students being supervised by staff members, including Mona campus, MICO University and the University of Technology.

Regional strengthening was addressed through service to CARICOM on the Working Group of Early Childhood; through representation of the region on international bodies including Childwatch International and the Childwatch Latin American and Caribbean network; through hosting the OAS-IIN (Inter-American Children’s Institute) databases and serving as the Caribbean hub for this initiative and through acting as a partner in the Caribbean Child Research Conference. International partnerships have been initiated and strengthened through hosting the Global Child Development Group; serving on a range of international bodies; undertaking to make a number of international presentations on the work carried out in the Caribbean; and hosting several visitors.

This year the UWI embark on drafting the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan which was a collaborative effort and staff was engaged in various ways. The Plan seeks to transform the institution into a ‘global player’, while serving as a driving force for Caribbean development.

## **MILESTONES**

Ms. Kisha Sawyers was promoted from Senior Library Assistant to Librarian.

**PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011/2012 ACTIVITIES**



Staff Retreat - July 17, 2012



St. St.Kitts & Nevis Group meeting with Actg. Head of CCDC, June 18, 2012



Pre-conference Workshop - Caribbean Child Research Conference  
University of the West Indies, Mona. June 13, 2012



Pre-conference Workshop - Caribbean Child Research Conference  
University of the West Indies, Mona. June 13, 2012.



Pre-Conference Workshop - Caribbean Child Research Conference  
University of the West Indies, Mona. June 13, 2012.



Kisha Sawyers, Librarian on Passage Grant (visit to the Orange County Library System),  
May 2012





Kisha Sawyers, Librarian on Passage Grant (University of Phoenix), November 2011



CCDC's Librarian Kisha Sawyers at Research Day, 2012, January 26-27, 2012



CCDC's Librarian Kisha Sawyers (left) at UWI Career Day 2012, February 23-24, 2012



Ceceile Minott, Actg. Head (in front third from left) at International Study Visit, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad, September 4-9, 2011



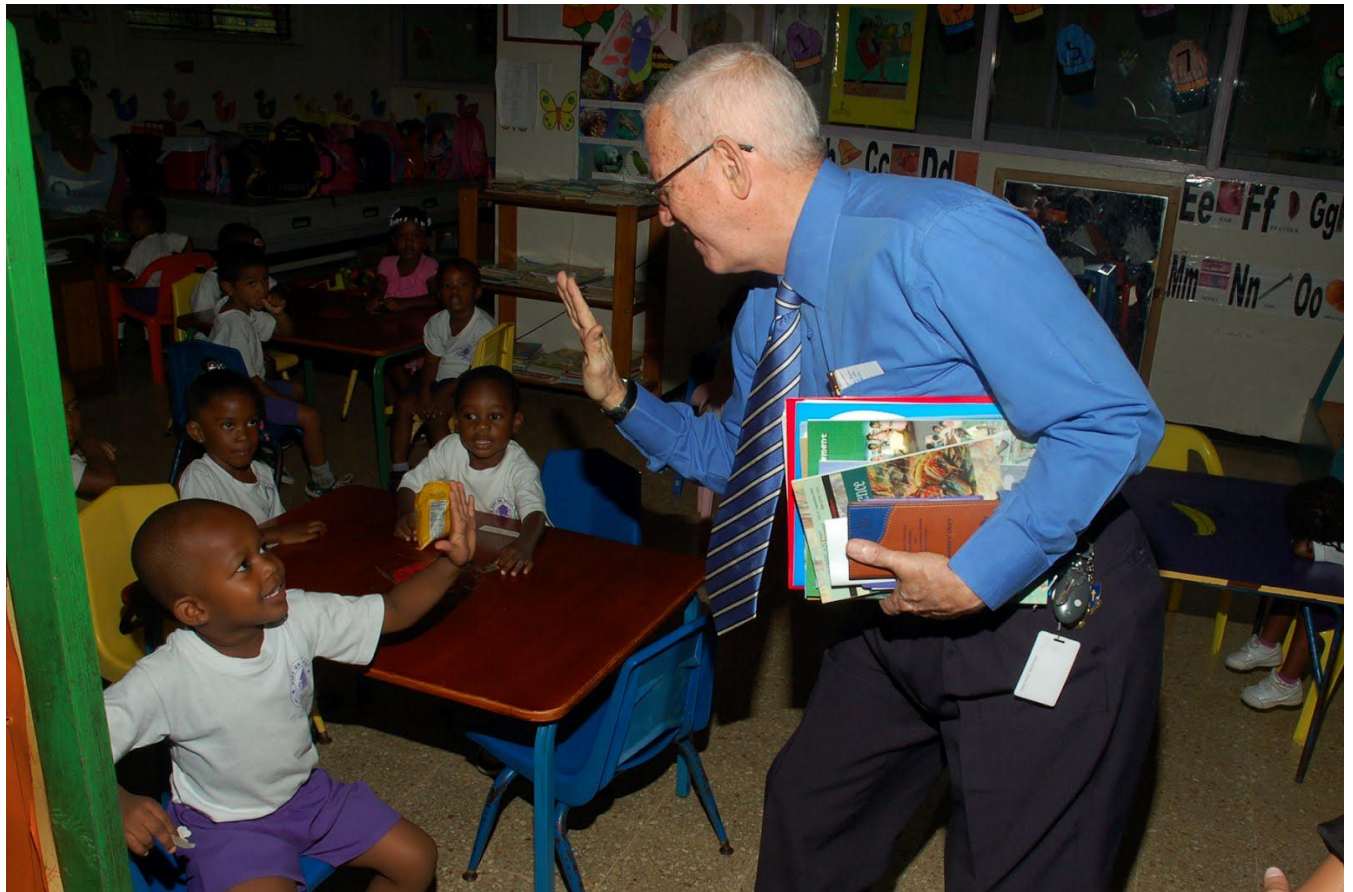
*Ceceile Minott, Actg. Head (middle row, sixth from left) at The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre Learning Through Play International Conference. Toronto Canada. May 23-29, 2012.*



Correctional Officers participating in Child Rights & Responsibilities Workshop at CCDC



Child Rights training session with wards at Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre.



The Rev. Hon. Ronald Thwaites, Minister of Education, Jamaica at Kids on Campus (Caribbean Child Development Centre)



Breakfast meeting: Dr. Rose Davies (Senior Lecturer, School of Education), Prof. Julie Meeks (Head, CCDC), Ceceile Minott (Actg. Head CCDC), Keith Brown (President, Jamaica Early Childhood Association), Prof. Emeritus Elsa Leo-Rhynie (former Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus), The Rev. Hon. Ronald Thwaites (Minister of Education, Jamaica)