

WHO WE ARE

Three early childhood laboratory (lab) schools are being developed by the UWI Open Campus to support high quality early educational practices throughout the Caribbean. They will also serve as demonstration/model centres for practicum students including those in the UWI Open Campus' B.Ed. in Early Childhood and Family Studies programme.

Two schools in Trinidad (catering for three and four year olds) are currently being restructured to become laboratory schools. In 2017, the laboratory school in Jamaica will open and serve children between three months and five years.



HOW WE DO IT

Dedicated Staff

Our staff members are trained professionals committed to a **CHILD-CENTRED** play-based approach and to partnering with and mentoring parents, practicum students, teachers and teacher trainers to implement these practices.

Strong & Meaningful Partnerships

The UWI Open Campus has partnerships with international universities and training institutions in order to facilitate meaningful exchanges and research opportunities. We will share the knowledge gained with stakeholders throughout the region through a variety of formats including trainings, observations, mentorship opportunities and social media.

WHAT WE DO

Our Philosophy

To serve as exemplary models of play-based best practices in early childhood development and support the development of high quality early childhood practices throughout the Caribbean through pre-service and in-service professional development and research.

Our Motto

Our motto, **“learning through play, celebrating the process”** is at the heart of everything we do.

Not only will our laboratory schools provide a high quality learning environment for the children we serve but we will also support training and development for in-service and pre-service teachers, parents and the wider community.

We will provide research opportunities for students and researchers in relevant disciplines and facilitate exchange programmes for local, regional and international students.



WHAT YOU'LL SEE



INDEPENDENT and **JOYFUL** children engaged in an environment that encourages **POSSIBILITIES** rather than limitations

Practicum students learning by doing and fully immersed in the process

Stakeholders observing best practices then debriefing with staff about ways to implement these practices in their settings

Targeted training and **MENTORSHIP** opportunities designed for stakeholders including trainers, teachers and parents

Social media strategies designed to demonstrate accessible and engaging best practices with others



WHY WE DO IT

Two of the most important components of high quality early childhood development programmes are:

- 1 A **CHILD-CENTRED** approach to learning. The focus should be on exploration - the "process" rather than the "product."
- 2 Teachers and their interactions with children.

Traditionally, in the Caribbean, activities tend to be teacher-directed and focused on rote learning rather than a hands-on, exploratory approach to teaching and learning. As model schools, we demonstrate best practices so that children throughout the Caribbean can thrive in an environment that respects, nurtures and revels in their individuality and uniqueness. Research opportunities will also support our goal to design and implement culturally and developmentally appropriate programming.

CONTACT Us

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THE UWI OPEN CAMPUS

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTRES OF
EXCELLENCE**

*LEARNING THROUGH PLAY,
CELEBRATING THE PROCESS*