

Note from the Editors



This edition consists of a series of exciting articles, news and picture presentations of our work at the Institute. Featured are the documentation facility open house, presentation of Advocacy Survey 2017 result, International symposium, conference on education and ECCE, training of a fourth group of Childminders, among other small projects within the annual operating plans of the staff.

We wish to convey our sincere gratitude to members of our team for their valuable contribution in the realisation of the various activities and projects, our faithful partners and stakeholders for their continued support and involvement in early childhood development in Seychelles.

We would appreciate your comments and suggestions on the above content to further improve our newsletter.

Welcome to our seventh edition of the Institute of Early Childhood Development's Newsletter. We are pleased to once again share the Hub's progress for the past nine months.

[Enjoy this edition!](#)

Documentation Facility Open House



A Documentation Facility opened its doors to the public in an Open House held on Friday 27th April at the Institute of Early Childhood Development Headquarters. In attendance was the Principal Secretary for Family Affairs, Mrs. Linda William Melanie, the Vice Chairperson of the IECD Board, the Director of the National Institute of Health and Social Studies, the Director of the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education, members of sectoral technical teams and our esteemed partners and friends.

The event coincided with the annual World Book and Copyright Day, 23rd April. This day, first celebrated by UNESCO in 1995, pays a world-wide tribute to books, authors, publishers, booksellers and libraries. It encourages everyone, and in particular young

people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gaining renewed respect for the written word that has greatly contributed to the social and cultural progress of humanity.

The ceremony was opportune for IECD to make available to everyone the books, literature among other publications in the ECCE sector in the Documentation Centre. This Facility is equipped with diverse books/literature ranging from parenting, health, nutrition and curriculum, including an online research service. The Documentation Unit will be a 'one-stop' center for documents and a repository of information, research data on ECCE.

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Documentation Facility Open House



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We also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between IECD, the National Institute of Health and Social Studies, and Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education for the use of the Documentation Facility by SITE and NIHSS students and Lecturers.

During the ceremony, a publication which promotes the services offered by a group of registered home-based childminders on Praslin and La Digue was launched. Copies of the Directory were handed over to IECD management members, District Administrator of Grand Anse Praslin, Mr. Moses and District Administrator of La Digue, Mrs. Barbara Barallon as well as other partners and sponsors. This project was conceptualized and developed by Ms. Lianette Morel, the Senior Compliance Officer from the Regulatory Affairs Section, as part of her Annual Operating Plan (AOP). The initiative serves to empower staff members to work independently, develop skills and abilities in

project management and increase productivity.

The ceremony also included with the handing over of a donation from Gran Kaz to the CEO, presented by the PR Manager of Gran Kaz Entertainment, Ms. Shama Amesbury. This donation extends the partnership between public and private organizations. It will go towards the Early Learning Environment Research Project, thus promoting quality, least restrictive environments for children to learn and develop.

The IECD hopes that its internal users such its Management, staff, Board members, external partners, professional practitioners, students aspiring to specialize in Early Childhood Care and Education, parents, researchers, journalists and members of the general public make good use of its Documentation Facility.

The opening hours of the Facility are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to 11:00am and 13:30pm to 15:30pm.

Second ECCE Forum: Presentation of Advocacy Survey Result



Communicating information through advocacy initiatives to create awareness among policy-makers, the workforce, professionals in ECCE, and the general population is a key objective of IECD. Successful advocacy initiatives is a collaborative effort by all ECCE sectors in providing effective information on best practices as well as highlights of new emerging developments in ECCE. This multi-sectoral approach between IECD and the participating ministries has proved to be an efficient model for programme delivery.

In the light of the above, the IECD initiated a survey in 2015, to address two main questions. These were:

- 1) What is the respondents' current level of general knowledge on/or a specific issue concerning early childhood?
- 2) How does this issue influence their action or behaviour?

The study was also expected to establish a baseline on what constituted children's well-being; this proved to be especially useful in the identification of potential knowledge gaps, beliefs or common practices that could either be protective or pose a risk to children's welfare. Subsequently, three performance levels were set (a) highly knowledgeable, (b) knowledgeable with few gaps, (c) slightly knowledgeable with significant gaps. A baseline of 60 percent of respondents least knowledgeable was established and interestingly, this proved to be right on target prompting IECD to establish a new benchmark of 70 percent in the second round of the survey in 2017.

The results of the survey of 2015 also prompted the following series of recommendations:

- Improve knowledge on all aspects of child health and safety, attitude and practice of Day Care operators and Childminders. Build stronger links between parents, service providers, and the wider community to promote and support children character development thus improving broad educational outcomes.
- Bolster knowledge and attitude towards child and social protection, promoting understanding of legal issues

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Second ECCE Forum: Presentation of Advocacy Survey Result



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pertaining to early childhood to reduce or eliminate child abuse in all its forms.

It was important to maintain as much as possible the methods used in 2015 for the advocacy survey in 2017 so that more meaningful comparisons could be made. In particular, the same sampling approaches were used, the different respondent groups were retained (Policy makers, Early Childhood Professions, Care Providers, and the Wider Community), the same themes were used (Health and Safety, Education, Parental and Community Links, Child and Social Protection, and Policy). A hallmark of the two surveys was that the same analytical tools were used. The 2017 survey was evaluative in the sense that the intention was to measure if there had been changes in the respondents'

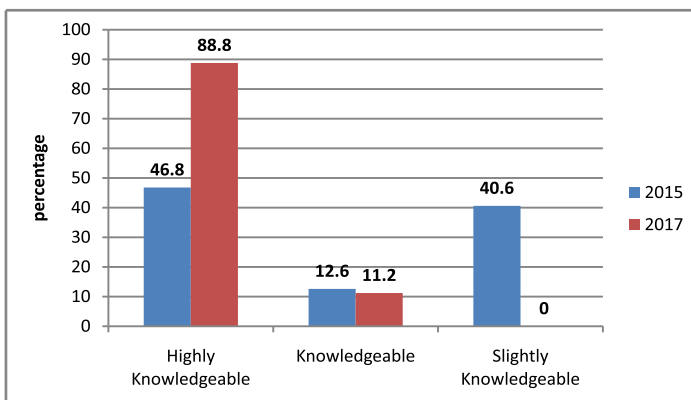
understanding of ECCE issues through advocacy strategies and campaigns.

The percentage of respondents who showed that they were least knowledgeable surpassed the 70 percent set. This was a remarkable development which can be attributed to a number of factors including the hugely successful international conference which IECD co-hosted earlier this year. No respondent was categorized "slightly knowledgeable", the lowest level, in 2017 compared to 40 percent in 2015. It was evident that positive changes have occurred in the respondents' understanding of ECCE issues. The results came as a surprise and surpassed IECD's expectation.

The challenge may be to maintain this momentum and develop measurable, actionable, and strategic interventions as the children join primary schools and beyond.

In collaboration with Early Childhood Development partners, IECD is cognizant of the need for sustained and long term investment in the early childhood sector, placing emphasis on the benefits of such investments that go well into adulthood. There is further scope to strengthen advocacy campaigns at policy level by building coalitions and sharing strategies, especially with the policy makers and other influential stakeholders.

In conclusion, the benefits of conducting advocacy evaluation is that it is formative and can help build capacity within an organization. Evaluation in the context of advocacy is relatively nascent but a fast growing discipline.



Percentage of respondents who achieved the three performance levels

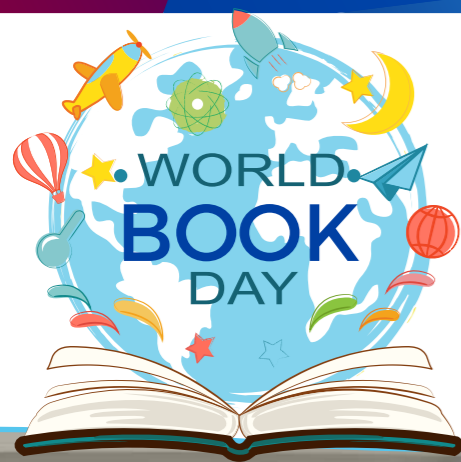
International Symposium on Early Childhood Care and Education



Miss Lianette Morel, the Senior Compliance Officer, participated in a two day symposium in Paris, France from the 5th to the 6th of March, 2018. It was an opportunity for country representatives to share their best practice ideas and participate in the discussion which centered on the following:

1. Issues of health: physical, moral and social welfare that have an impact on gender equality and a child's capacity to learn
2. Issue of early education: what to teach young children and how they learn.
3. The care and mentorship of children
4. What encourages inclusion?
5. Policies and practices in the field of early childhood

In her closing remarks, the Honorable President of the University of Sorbonne- Nouvelle Paris, and French National Commissioner for UNESCO, Ms. Suzy Halimi, discussed the complexity of ECCE. She highlighted a number of good practices in ECCE that were presented during the course of the two days. Ms. Halimi also explained the importance of ECCE on the international stage and the emphasis of any more children having access to ECCE programs. However, there was need to concentrate on improving the quality of programs for ECCE.



IECD News



On Friday March 2nd, the Giraffe Bookshop, on Eden Island donated 5000 vouchers to the Ministry of Education and the IECD for Early Childhood children (3 months - 7 years). The vouchers allowed them to choose a book from the special World Book Day selection or to receive 25scr off the purchase of any book available in the bookshop. The bookshop reported this arrangement to be very satisfying and profitable. The IECD would like to thank the Giraffe Bookshop for this thoughtful initiative encouraging our children to read.

Work hard, play hard



On Monday 30th April, the IECD team traded paperwork and heels for yoga mats and comfy trainers. We all headed to the tranquil Nature Seychelles Sanctuary at Roche Caiman for a calming yoga session. After that, we were en route to Mission Lodge to enjoy the beautiful scenery where we made the most of the background for a group photo.

The day ended at Beau Vallon with a mouthwatering lunch at Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay and jokes and a good laugh on the beach.

IECD Appeals Board

In June this year, the President appointed the IECD Appeals Board. The board's role is provided for under section 21 of the Institute of Early Childhood Development and is tasked to consider request for appeals by persons who feel aggrieved by a decision of the Institute. The board has the power to confirm, vary, or set aside a decision of the board or order the institute to reconsider the decision made. The board consists of 3 persons who have varying experience with the early childhood sector. Ms. Michelle Marguerite has been appointed as the chairperson of the board and Mr. Alex Souffe and Mrs. Anne- Marie Bibi as members. The board began its work in August 2018 and for this last quarter of 2018 is placing emphasis on the development of its procedures to guide its operation and sensitization of stakeholders. The board is appointed for a period of 3 years.



Chairperson: Ms. Michelle Marguerite



Member: Mr. Alex Souffe



Member: Mrs. Anne-Marie Bibi

National Action Plan 17-18: Mid - Year Review



[Conducting surveillance visits to monitor the implementation of the national action plan and providing support to sectors and its technical team are among the main activities of the Programme Coordination and Research Section. On average, two visits have been held in each sector (including the

IECD) this year.

Apart from the visits, the High Level ECCE Policy Committee met with all technical teams and their chief executives to evaluate progress for the first half of the year. Furthermore, the CEO of IECD meets with all Chairpersons of Technical Teams on a monthly basis to provide guidance and advice on implementation. The High Level ECCE Policy Committee was very satisfied with the steady progress made. It is anticipated that around seventy-five percent of the total projects will be completed by the end of December 2018. We wish all technical teams the very best in the conclusion of their respective projects].

Making the children smile



On Thursday 29th March, the IECD hosted its 2nd ECCE Forum for 2018. During the Forum, we took the opportunity to call upon Mr Clifford Mondon, founder of the Make a Child Smile Association, to accept a donation from the IECD team. The group was able to raise SCR 18,150 through a sponsored walk organized by the association on Sunday 11th of March. The donation was made to assist Nathan Laporte and Sharib Marie with their medical bills. The members of the audience also chipped-in and presented their donation to Nathan and his mum. The ceremony was graced by Minister Jeanne Simeon; Capt. David Savy, the Chair of the IECD Board among other guests and partners.

ECCE Message Board Project

The final message board was installed on Saturday 02nd June at the Inter Island Quay Jetty. The aim of the boards is to increase awareness in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in the development of children in their early life. The boards can be found in various locations such as: the Immigration and Civil Status Office, the Maternity Ward, the PUC Customer Care office at Maison Malavois, the Victoria Bus Terminal, the National Assembly and the Arrival lounge at the Seychelles International Airport. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the management of each location for allowing us to install our boards and their engagement in the promotion and advocacy of ECCE.

Session Ministérielle de la CONFEMEN



La 58^{ème} session ministérielle de la CONFEMEN a eu lieu les 23 et 24 mai 2018, au K.-C. Irving Regional Center, à Bathurst (Nouveau Brunswick, Canada), sur le thème : 'Favoriser le développement de la petite enfance et garantir l'accès à une éducation préscolaire équitable et de qualité : un socle pour la réussite des apprentissages'

Ont participé aux travaux de la 58^{ème} session ministérielle, les états et gouvernements représentés par des ministres et chefs de délégation suivants : Bénin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodge, Cameroun, Canada-Québec, Canada-Nouveau-Brunswick, Côte d'Ivoire, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, France, Gabon, Haïti, la RDP Lao, Liban, Madagascar, le Mali, Maroc, République Démocratique du Congo, Roumanie, Suisse, Seychelles, Togo, et Vietnam.

La délégation seychelloise était dirigée par Dr Odile de Comarmond, Secrétaire générale de l'Education de la Petite Enfance, du Primaire et du Secondaire. Les autres membres de la délégation étaient Mademoiselle Zitabella Labiche, de la Section de l'Evaluation et de Certification du Ministère de l'Education et du Développement des Ressources Humaines et Madame Shirley Choppy, CEO de l'Institut Du Développement de La Petite Enfance.

Le point culminant de la conférence était la présentation intitulée : Favoriser le développement de la petite enfance et garantir l'accès à une éducation préscolaire équitable et de qualité : un socle pour la réussite des apprentissages de Mme Agnès FLORIN, professeure émérite en psychologie de l'enfant et de l'éducation à l'Université de Nantes (France).

La présentation était basée sur une définition large de la petite enfance, soit de 0 à 6 ans en considérant l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant. Après avoir évoqué le contexte et les enjeux de l'éducation et de la protection de la petite enfance (EPPE), Mme Florin a analysé l'impact de l'EPPE sur le développement et les trajectoires des élèves, les programmes et modèles de curriculum, la qualité de l'encadrement, la gouvernance et la planification ainsi que le financement de l'EPPE. Elle a aussi fait état du développement récent de l'EPPE sur tous les continents. Les recommandations proposées par l'experte ont été examinées lors du huis clos des ministres et chefs de délégations.

A travers les programmes et des actions, menées notamment, au regard de la langue d'enseignement en tant que facteur

d'inclusion, et ce, dès la petite enfance ainsi que de la formation des enseignants du préscolaire, le représentant de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) a informé les ministres et chefs de délégation que l'OIF élabore actuellement de nouveaux projets. L'un des projets clés concerne essentiellement la mise en place d'un panel international de haut-niveau sur les déterminants de la qualité de l'éducation pour les filles et invite la CONFEMEN à une réflexion conjointe.

Il a été précisé que la CONFEMEN devra, dans son action, tenir compte du fait que dans plusieurs pays, notamment le Gabon, l'éducation préscolaire relève surtout du secteur privé et réaffirmer la disponibilité de l'organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) à appuyer la CONFEMEN dans ses mandats principaux ainsi que les pays dans le développement de leur système d'éducation préscolaire.

Panels de discussion.

Les panels de discussion constituaient une autre activité importante inscrite au programme de la conférence. Les discussions ont permis un partage d'expériences des États et gouvernements et des partenaires techniques et financiers sur les thématiques suivantes:

1. Quels curriculums pour les élèves du préscolaire?
2. Comment aborder la transition entre le préscolaire et le primaire?
3. Gouvernance et financement du secteur préscolaire.

La chef de la délégation seychelloise, Madame Odile de Comarmond a présenté le nouveau cadre d'apprentissage précoce et du développement (SELF) et la mise en place du programme aux Seychelles.

Les États et gouvernements participants ont été félicités et remerciés pour le partage de leurs riches expériences. Les présentations par les différents panélistes seront exploitées dans le cadre de la finalisation du Document de Réflexion et D'orientation (DRO).

Les délégations ont pu également visiter quelques sites historiques, une garderie modèle et aussi assister à des événements officiels et culturels. La déléguées seychelloises à cette 58^{ème} ministérielle de la CONFEMEN ont trouvé le partage d'expériences, les réflexions et échange d'informations très fructueux et pertinents.

1st Edition Directory of Registered Childminding Services



A Directory of Registered Childminding Services based on Praslin and La Digue published by the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) was officially launched on the 27th April, 2018. The project was conceptualized by Miss Lianette Morel, Senior Compliance Officer as part of her Annual Operational Plan. The aim of the Directory is to provide information to parents, relevant authorities, services in the community and the general public on registered childminding establishments thus facilitating access to these facilities. The project will promote the services being offered by the nine registered Childminders, six of whom are from Praslin and three

are from La Digue.

Users will be provided with background information on the Childminders, a general overview of their facilities; contact details, as well as the activities they conduct for the children. There is plan for a review/update of the Directory every two years.

The Directory will be available in Antenatal Clinics; District Administration Offices among other key public places. The Institute also anticipates publishing a similar Directory for Childminding Services based on Mahé.

Refresher Sessions for registered Childminders



Building capacity of registered Childminders for a quality service is a major preoccupation of the team at the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD). Hence they organized a series of refresher sessions based on the National Standards, Nutrition, Administration and Early Learning. The Institute has taken a phased approach in the implementation of the National Standards for Childminding Services. Its aim in 2018 is to reinforce the implementation of these standards alongside the National Standards Interaction, Physical Environment as well as Family and Community Engagement. This is because for registration, Childminders are required to implement the four mandatory standards on Health, Child Rights and Protection, Safety, and Staffing with the application of six other standards after registration.

Sixty four registered Childminders have attended these refresher

sessions which were facilitated by the staff of the Regulatory Affairs of IECD on the 3rd, 17th February 2018, and the 21st April 2018. The sessions focused on each of the standards, particularly on areas of weaknesses identified during monitoring visits. The training was predominantly practically based and provided the Childminders with additional skills to implement the standards. The Childminders were issued with a pack consisting of an early learning plan with relevant resources as well as posters and notes on the standards, Administration and Nutrition.

An additional refresher session is planned for July this year to review the implementation of the three standards and also to reinforce the implementation of the remaining standards. Monitoring visits by Officers of the Regulatory Affairs Section will scrutinize the application of the standards to ensure that Childminders are in full compliance with the set regulations.

Training on Budget Management



For many Childminders, starting a service stems from the love they have for children and a desire to assist parents who are in need of child care while they work. With the enactment of the National Standards on Childminding Regulation 2016, home-based childminding services has been transformed from a service in the informal sector into one in the formal sector. With their business geared for the provision of a much needed community service, Childminders are today regarded as social entrepreneurs.

Given that registered Childminders benefit from a Government Programme of Financial Assistance, there is a need for them to be equipped to manage their finances. The IECD makes provision for registered Childminders to participate in a training programme on Budget Management as part of their continuous professional development. The first group of Childminders started training in December, 2017 and sessions were conducted with other groups throughout the first half of 2018. To date, 51 registered Childminders from

Mahé, Praslin and La Digue have benefitted from this training. The workshops were facilitated by Mr. Peter Rosalie, a Consultant with vast experience and expertise in the field of Entrepreneurship. On Mahé, the session was held on 7th April, 2018 followed by a session for the other island-based Childminders the following Saturday.

The sessions consisted of practical exercises which addressed the following aspects of the business; definition and rationale of a budget, budget preparation; the need for a budget and employee costs and expenditures. Both the IECD Staff and Childminders appreciated the opportunity they have been given to learn more about effective budget management.

The training which is also part of the professional development programme for Childminders will be ongoing during the course of the year for other registered Childminders.

Sensitization Meeting for Parents on National Standards



Childminding services cannot exist without parents. If we want children to thrive in childminding settings, then it makes sense for their parents to get involved. It is with this intention that the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) organized a Sensitization Meeting for Parents whose children are enrolled in Childminding Services on Mahe or who had the intention of accessing this service in the future. The objective was to sensitize the parents on the National Standards for Childminding Services as well as other initiatives of this programme and to also foster positive relationships between the Childminders and parents. The meeting which was held at the Sheik Khalifa Auditorium at the Ministry of Health on Friday 11th May, 2018 had an encouraging turn out.

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Shirley Choppy. She presented background information on IECD as a legal entity and its mandates vis-à-vis early childhood development including the regulation of childminding services. The programme continued with presentations on the National Standards by different speakers. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify issues related to childminding services through plenary sessions. The parents were also presented with the results of a pilot study which was conducted in 2017 on the implementation of the National Standards in registered Childminding establishments. Information was also shared about the main study which is planned to commence in August this year. The Institute wishes to thank the parents for

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Sensitization Meeting for Parents on National Standards

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responding to its invitation to attend the meeting and for their active participation. Additionally, thanks go to the Childminders for encouraging the participation of parents of the children using their service. The Institute hopes that through such meetings parents will be better informed of the changes that are happening in Childminding services in the country, more importantly that Childminders and parents will work together to support the children's development.

Development and Assessment of Early Learning Plans for Registered Childminding Services



Learning in the early years is known to positively contribute towards the holistic development of early childhood children. According to the Institute of Early Childhood Development (National Standards on Childminding Regulation), 2016, Childminders are required to implement an early learning programme consisting of activities that enhance the children's learning, physical and mental development. Although registered Childminders have been trained on the Early Learning standard before registration, it was also observed during monitoring visits that they needed support in developing and implementing a learning plan.

In order to assist the Childminders and to reinforce the implementation of this standard, a project is being implemented by Mrs Patsy Francourt as part of her Annual Operating Plan for 2018. The project consists of the development and assessment of the implementation of early learning plans including relevant resources. The plans which will target children from 2 to 4 years old aims to develop the children's language skills through songs, poems and storytelling. Activities such as collage, painting, threading, singing and making simple models to develop their creativity and fine motor skills have also been incorporated in the plans. Children will learn simple mathematical notions such as shapes, space, sorting, size and numbers through play-based activities. The plans also cater for the development of children's gross motor skills. Children will be engaged in play such as running, jumping, hopping, exercising and dancing. To make learning more meaningful and interesting, Childminders will be encouraged to take children on

outings. By implementing the plans, Childminders will be equipped with skills and strategies on how to go about conducting simple and meaningful activities with their children which will help prepare them for school.

The implementation of the plans will be assessed through monitoring visits. Childminders will be required to keep records of children's work and their progress. Those who encounter difficulty will be supported through modelled teaching and further guidance.

An exhibition is being planned for the end of the year to showcase both Childminders' and their children's effort in the implementation of the plans.

By Patsy Francourt
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.



The Launching of Kiddies Day Out Initiative



Young children need the opportunity to use their whole body to develop their gross motor skills. An open space allows them to be physically active, challenging themselves to form healthy habits that will stay with them for life. As advocates for physical activity and play, we need to limit our children's screen time and set an example of a healthy and active lifestyle that includes plenty of play. Kids have access to so much technology today which can truly restrict the amount of time they engage in physical play. Resetting the balance is the first step towards putting our children on a path to good physical health.

As part of her Annual Operating Plan for the year 2018, Ms. Marvel Simeon, initiated the Kiddies Day Out Activity. This activity was launched, on Thursday 28th June 2018, at the Anse Etoile Community Centre by the Institute of Early Childhood Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government. The aim was twofold; to promote Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) related activities at community level and to encourage play and physical activity outside the usual setting.

Children from three Home-based Childminding Establishments, two Day Care Centers, parents and teachers took part in the activity.

A warm welcome, followed by the address of the Anse Etoile District Administrator, Ms. Jenna Dubignon set things in motion. The Parish Priest did not miss the chance to bless the day before Mrs. Shirley Choppy, the Chief Executive Officer of IECD, and Mrs. Betty Mai Sofa,

the Principal Policy Analyst from the Department of Local Government, were given the honor to cut the ribbon and officially unveil the much-awaited array of toys.

The children were overjoyed to engage in the play activities which were at their disposal, they were free to shout, jump, run, hop, skip and just be kids. Henceforth, the Anse Etoile District Administrator has adopted this initiative to be implemented on Wednesdays at the Anse Etoile Community Centre. Local Childminders with their children are invited to access the toys, which are now based at the Community Centre.



Song Competition on National Theme: 'Sesel, mon pei beni'



In support of the National Theme launched by the National Theme Steering Committee, the Institute of Early Childhood Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, has seized the opportunity to initiate a project for the children under the National Theme. This competition provides a platform for the children to showcase their talents and skills through creative songs about Seychelles.

Following the launch in June 2018, a half-day workshop was organised to equip teachers with knowledge and skills on the technical aspects of song composition, music arrangement techniques, performance of children in readiness for the elimination rounds. This was facilitated by Mr. Raymond Clarisse whose input was well appreciated by the participants. The elimination took place on Tuesday 18th September on Mahé and on Wednesday 19th September on Praslin. Out of twenty-four schools which participated, eleven qualified for the final.

The final show for the Song Competition was held on Sunday 11th November in a packed International Conference Centre Seychelles (ICCS). Present at the event were the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development, Mrs. Jeanne Simeon, the Principal Secretary for Social Affairs, Mrs. Linda William-Melanie, Principal Secretary for Youth and Sports, Mr. Fabian Palmyre, the Chief Executive Officer of the IECD, Mrs. Shirley Choppy, the Chairperson of the National Theme Steering Committee, Mr. Jude Fred, sponsors, other guests, parents, teachers and members of the public. Eleven schools participated in the Final. These were Anse Aux Pins, Anse Etoile,

Bel Ombre, Baie Lazare, Cascade, Grand Anse Praslin, Glacis, Independent school, La Digue, Perseverance North Primary and Takamaka.

Baie Lazare Primary School is the grand winner with their song entitled: Benediksyon en parade inik. They impressed both the jury panel and the public to win both First Prize and the Audience

Choice Award. The pupils were rewarded with each an Acer Aspire 3 notebook sponsored by the Chairman of the IECD Board, Captain David Savy, educational books, stationery bag and gift pack sponsored by the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) and a donation of paint for the school from PenlacPTYLTD.

Second Prize, a Samsung Galaxy Tablet Lite sponsored by Captain David Savy and educational books sponsored by IECD went to Cascade Primary School with their song, 'Mon pei'. The Third Prize comprised of a Collins English Dictionary and story books sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and Four Yamaha Recorders sponsored by Abhaye Valabhji PTY LTD was won by Grand Anse Praslin Primary School with their song, 'Sesel nou zoli pti pei'.

The show, which also saw the participation of other artists and dance groups, was directed by well known Artistic Director, Mr. Raymond Clarisse. The IECD would like to extend its warm thanks and gratitude to everyone who has helped in one way or another in the successful implementation of the project and the beautiful execution of the Special Children's Show.



Certificate Ceremony for fourth group of Childminders



On 31st August 2018, the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development Mrs. Jeanne Simeon and the Chairperson of the IECD Board Capt. David Savy, awarded certificates to twenty-two participants. The Childminders had successfully completed the pre-registration and sensitization training with IECD from June to August 2018. The ceremony took place at the STC Conference Room.

The event was also attended by the Minister for Family Affairs Mrs. Mitcy Larue, as well as, other high Officials from different Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Sectors, facilitators, staff of the IECD and families of the Childminders.

Minister Simeon, as the guest of honour, had the pleasure of addressing the audience for this special occasion. This was followed by performances from school children, which

consisted of traditional dance and a poem. On this occasion the Childminders also participated with two songs and a poem to demonstrate their talent. During the ceremony, the guests were also given an overview of the training programme by one of our officers, Miss Jill Emile. There was also a special mention for participants who have made an extra effort during the training. Additionally, Childminders who had completed training in Basic Paediatric First Aid, facilitated by the Red Cross Society of Seychelles, also received their certificates.

On behalf of her colleagues, Miss Bettina Marengo, a practicing Childminder from Cascade, thanked everyone who had one way or another, contributed towards the successful implementation of the training programme.

This year, the trainees have altogether completed a total of 51 notional hours over nine consecutive Saturdays from 9.00am to 4.00pm. The Childminders have acquired knowledge and skills to ensure the betterment and their children's holistic development within their service. The training sessions covered the National Standards on Childminding Regulation of 2016. This included the following components Health, Child Rights and Protection, Staffing, Safety, Early Learning, Interaction, Administration, Nutrition, Family and Community Engagement, and Physical Environment. It also consisted of a session on the Childminding Service Agreement. The training was facilitated by experts in the field of Early Childhood, Employment Law, Safety, Child Rights and Protection, Health, Nutrition, Sports and Community Engagement. This year's training programme also saw the participation of two registered Childminders who shared their experiences with regards to the implementation of the early learning standards as well as organizing outings.



**SECOND INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
ON EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION**

21st to 23rd February 2019 – Republic of Seychelles