

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the Impact of a Parent Outreach Programme on the Family-School Partnership at Sunville Early Childhood Care and Education Centre

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From the perspective of parents and teachers involved in a Parent Outreach Programme (POP) at an early childhood care and education centre in Trinidad and Tobago, this study investigated the impact of the programme on the family-school relationship. Data were collected through interviews with two teachers and two parents, as well as through document analysis. The findings of the study revealed that despite the impediments to the impact of the programme, the participants acknowledged its intrinsic value. It was also found that that they encountered several challenges, barriers, and shortcomings, which prevented the realization of the full benefits of the programme. The teachers articulated challenges of lack of training, lack of resources, and parents' literacy issues, while the parents advanced the perception that they were being excluded from the decision-making process.

Keywords: Case studies; Early childhood care and education; Parent teacher relationship; Parent participation; Programme evaluation; Parent attitudes; Teacher attitudes; Preprimary teachers; Trinidad and Tobago.