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ABSTRACT

A Study of Parenting Abilities In Three Communities in Trinidad

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This thesis explored the impact of current parenting programmes on the parenting abilities of parents of young children attending three community based Early Childhood Care and Education Centres in north Trinidad. The parenting programmes were examined and it was determined that the parenting needs of clients were effectively met, and parents were enabled, to meet some of the needs of their children. The Case Study Approach using Qualitative Methods of enquiry was employed to articulate the perspectives of both teachers and parents at the centres.

Three major findings emerged from this research. Firstly, parenting abilities emerged in a hierarchical order starting with the ability of parents to meet basic needs and progressing to their ability to provide moral and spiritual guidance for their children. Secondly, all parents were involved in school activities although in two of the three communities parenting meetings were poorly attended. Finally, fathers were found to be more in tune with family life than popular belief indicated. Recommendations were made based on the research findings, the review of literature, on current parenting education and empowerment programmes, and the social conditions of families in Trinidad and Tobago.

Keywords: Sharon Lucia Marriott, parenting, parenting abilities, parenting education, parents' empowerment, and family empowerment.