

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The Transition From Early Childhood Education to Primary School: A Study of Transitional Practices Used By Early Childhood Teachers in South Trinidad**

*Andy Ken Ramdath*

This study sought to identify the transitional practices used by early childhood teachers in South Trinidad, their perceptions of these practices, and the skills the teachers deem necessary for children to successfully transition to primary school. Data were collected through interviews and observations from a purposively selected sample of four early childhood education teachers from the main institutions in the catchment area. The study yielded four essential themes: 1) early childhood educators are not considered part of the education cycle, 2) social skills are just as important as academic skills for transitioning, 3) starting and continuing school is a community event, and 4) transition programmes should be planned and well supported.

**Keywords:** Early childhood care and education; Preschool children; Preprimary teachers; Transition classes; Classroom methods; Primary education; Student progress; Educational strategies; Trinidad and Tobago