

WHAT IS SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Special Education is the educational provision for children whose levels of functioning deviate from the norm such that special programmes are necessary to facilitate or foster optimum learning.

OBJECTIVES

- To secure teaching/learning opportunities for students with special needs throughout the education system.
- To plan, implement, monitor Special Education programmes.
- To secure access, equity and quality education for students with special needs.

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

This Unit was established in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture in January 1989 and is located at Caenwood Centre, 37 Arnold Road, Kingston 5. Prior to that, the registered Special Education schools were monitored by the Early Childhood Unit. Presently, there is a staff of seven officers, a secretary and a technician. The Unit consists of a Braille and Large Print Programme that reproduces all national examinations and primary curriculum support materials for blind and visually impaired students and their teachers.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The Unit supervises Special Education schools, units and programmes islandwide. The schools are categorized as Government-owned and Government-aided. There are also private community-based facilities some of which are partially funded by the government. There is at least one Special Education facility in each parish. Over 3,400 students are enrolled in these schools with 300 teachers. The teacher pupil ratio varies from 1:5 to 1:16 depending on the type and severity of learning problems.

The Unit offers support, curriculum supervision, monitoring services and facilitates training, net-working, assessment and programme planning. It is a resource base for expertise, advice and hands-on information across all levels of the education system. This necessitates collaboration with all the other units within the Ministry, agencies offering services to persons with special needs and other stakeholders.

WHO ARE SERVED

The programme encompasses education for students 3 – 20 years with all types of difficulties including:

- Hearing Impairment (H.I.)
- Visual Impairment (V.I.)
- Physical Impairment (P.I.)
- Mental Retardation (M.R.)
- Giftedness
- Learning Disabilities (L.D.)

ACTIVITIES

- Supervision and training of resource teachers in regular schools
- In-service training for teachers in special and regular schools.
- The development of partnerships with schools for mainstreaming and resource help for children with special needs.
- Educational assessment of under-achievers.
- Sensitization for parent groups, Administrators, Education Officers, Principals and Board Members.
- Promotion of Special Education Intervention across the curriculum.
- Staff development exercises in schools upon requests.
- Assistance in establishing Resource Room in regular schools – Primary and High.

CATEGORIES OF SCHOOLS

Government Aided

- * Hope Valley Experimental
- * Carberry Court
- * Salvation Army School for the Blind
- * Randolph Lopez School of Hope
- * Woodlawn School of Special Education
- * Edgehill School of Special Education
- * Windsor School of Special Education
- * Llandilo School of Special Education
- * St Christopher's School for the Deaf
- * Danny Williams Primary and Pre-school
- * Lister Mair Gilby High

Government Owned

- * Catherine Hall Primary
- * Hazard Primary
- * Duncans All-Age
- * Lyssons Primary
- * Ocho Rios Primary
- * Mico Practising Primary and Junior High

Non-Government Organizations

- * Alpha Boys' Home
- * The S.T.E.P. Centre
- * Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (3 Centres)
- * Jamaica Association for Children with Learning Disabilities
- * Maranatha School for the Deaf
- * McCam Child Care and Development Centre
- * 3D Projects - Community Based
- * Rural Services for the Disabled
- * St John Bosco Boys' Home
- * Clarendon Group for the Disabled
- * Jamaica Association on Mental Retardation
- * Jamaica Association for the Deaf

REFERRALS AGENCIES

Mico Child Assessment Research in Education (C.A.R.E.) Centre
5 Manhattan Road, Kingston 5

Jamaica Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (J.A.C.L.D.)
7 Leinster Road, Kingston 5

Rural Services for the Disabled – Com. Based
191 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 8

Jamaica Association on Mental Retardation
7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7

Jamaica Society for the Blind
111 1/2 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6

3D- (Dedicated to the Development of the Disabled) Projects
14 Monk Street, Spanish Town,
St. Catherine

Clarendon Group for the Disabled
2A Palm Avenue, May Pen, Clarendon

Early Stimulation Project
92 Hanover Street, Kingston

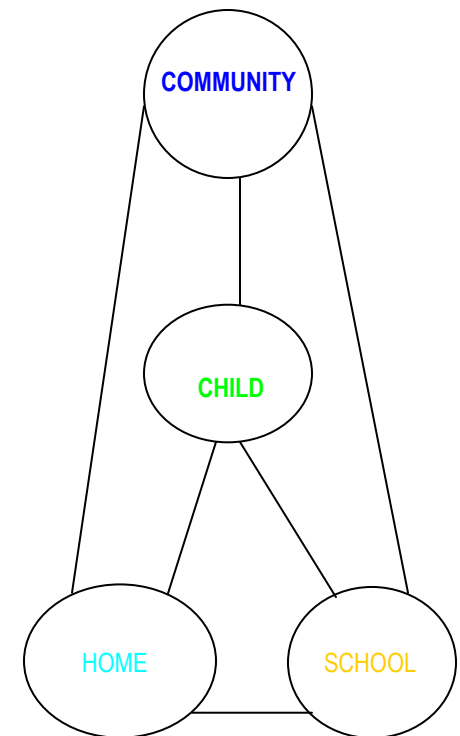
Jamaica Association for the Deaf
Hope Estates, Kingston 6

McCam Child Care and Development Centre
231 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6

For Further Information Contact:
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Kingston 5
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT



**Education for all:
Making it happen**