



## PARENTING SESSIONS ADDRESS SCHOOL-RELATED CHALLENGES

**ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, July 18, 2014 – GIS:** Being a parent to school-aged children is not a matter to be taken lightly. This reality hit home to the 17 mothers who attended the Parenting Education Session held by the National Parenting Programme in the Town of Grenville on Monday.

The challenges children face at school, such as bullying; peer pressure; home-related stress and learning disabilities, were at the heart of a session entitled “Working with your Child’s School.”



Parenting Education Programme held at the St. Andrew's Anglican Primary School, Grenville, St. Andrew

The session comes at an appropriate time, as both parents and children will soon be in the process of preparing for a new school year.

“We thought it was important to have this module because children are students for the majority of the years they spend in

their parents care. During those years parents have to deal with teachers, issues at school and educational challenges,” Programme Coordinator, Deborah Cudjoe, said at a brief interview after the session.

“It’s critical for parents to have a good relationship with not just children’s teachers, but the principals and also the parents of their children’s friends. When parents establish a good network with the school, the interest of the child is always put first,” Ms. Cudjoe said.

Already into its 5<sup>th</sup> week, the programme imparts weekly sessions that help parents understand their children’s needs and provide guidance on how to cope with the hurdles related to parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The programme has also proven to be therapeutic for the parents themselves as they get the opportunity to interact with each other and share the experiences and challenges they and their children face.

“The classes are very interesting,” a participant said. “They provide a place where parents can meet and interact with each other. Here we can gain more knowledge about how to raise our children right.”

She further went on to say that such sessions “shouldn’t be held just once a year, but three times for

the year.”

Sessions are held every Monday at the St. Andrew’s Anglican Primary School, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

The Parenting Education Programme is an initiative of the Division of Gender and Family Affairs of the Ministry of Social Development and Housing.

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