



Above: Officials and trainers at the PEP launch
Inset: PEP Launch panel discussion



Celebrating the Journey

Welcome to the first edition of PEP Talk!

When the Parent Education Programme (PEP) was launched on May 4, 2026, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), it marked an important milestone in Barbados' education transformation journey.

It reflected a simple but powerful belief: **that every child's success begins not only in the classroom, but also at home.**

Over Summer 2026, parents and caregivers from across Barbados came together at 12 locations to learn, share experiences and strengthen the skills that help children thrive. Through practical, community-based workshops, honest conversations and mutual support, they have demonstrated that there is no perfect parent – only parents committed to learning and growing.

This first edition celebrates that journey. Inside, you'll hear directly from participants and facilitators whose stories remind us that parenting is strengthened through connection, encouragement and shared experiences. Their voices are at the heart of PEP and inspire us as we look ahead.



PEP Talk from Minister Blackman

Welcome to the inaugural edition of PEP Talk, where we celebrate the journey of the Parent Education Programme and the families who have been part of this exciting beginning.

As Barbados prepares to celebrate 60 years as an independent nation and 5 years as a republic, we are taking time to reflect on who we are, how far we have come and the future we want to build together. At the heart of that future are our children, and ensuring that we create an environment to raise student achievement remains one of the key goals of our Education Transformation Programme.

Launched this year on May 4 in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), PEP is built on a simple but important idea:

children do best when families, schools and communities work together. Parents and caregivers are their children's first teachers, and the support they provide at home plays a powerful role in student achievement and overall well-being.

As we celebrate the completion of our first cohort, we celebrate the parents, caregivers and facilitators who stepped forward, shared their experiences and embraced the opportunity to grow. Your stories remind us that there is no perfect parent but every parent can learn, grow and make a difference.

PEP reflects what we can achieve when we come together as a nation. Building stronger families means building stronger communities, and ultimately, a stronger Barbados.

I invite more families to join us on this journey.

Hon. Chad Blackman J.P., M.P.
Minister of Education Transformation



A Vision for Stronger Families

As we celebrate the completion of the six-week PEP pilot, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and, more importantly, excited about where we go from here.

From June to July, PEP reached families across 12 locations, bringing together 90 parents and caregivers, supported by 34 certified trainers, two well-being specialists and four childcare support specialists. These numbers tell part of the story; the conversations, connections and experiences shared along the way tell the rest.

To our parents and caregivers, thank you for showing up, sharing openly and being willing to learn and grow. To our facilitators and childcare support specialists, thank you for your dedication, energy and commitment to creating safe and supportive spaces for families.

This first cohort has also given us an important opportunity to listen, learn and improve. The experiences and feedback from Cohort 1, including what worked well and where we can do better, will help shape a more refined and meaningful experience for Cohort 2, launching in October 2026.

PEP is an important part of our wider Education Transformation journey. We know that improving student achievement is not something schools can accomplish alone. Stronger partnerships between homes, schools and communities are essential to helping every child thrive.

As we look ahead, our hope is that PEP will continue to grow into a sustainable national initiative that reaches even more families. If you are a parent or caregiver considering PEP, I encourage you to take that step.

Together, let us continue building stronger families, empowered communities and a stronger Barbados.

Dr. Ramona Archer-Bradshaw
Chief Education Officer

From Vision to Action



Looking back on the PEP journey from concept to implementation, I am reminded that the Parent Education Programme has always been about people.

Behind every session delivered and every family reached was an extraordinary network of partners working together toward a common goal.

Coordinating this initiative required aligning the efforts of ministries, international partners, schools, faith-based organisations, community centres, facilitators, volunteers and support professionals across Barbados. While logistics were complex and the pace often demanding, the willingness of so many individuals and organisations to contribute their time, expertise, and resources reinforced an important lesson: strengthening families is a shared community responsibility.

Our pilot exceeded our target and expectations. Participants consistently described the programme as practical, relevant, and transformative. One parent said: “I was drowning and this programme was my lifeguard since I’m in the toddler stage [of parenting]. It was pleasure meeting with you wonderful people who have teenagers to guide me in the years to come.”

Many caregivers reported greater confidence in communicating with their children, managing challenging behaviours using positive parenting strategies, understanding children’s developmental needs, building stronger family relationships and building a support system with their peers. These outcomes affirm that when parents and caregivers are supported, children and communities flourish.

As we prepare for Cohort 2, our vision is to expand our reach, strengthen community partnerships, and provide even more parents and caregivers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to nurture resilient, healthy families. We will continue to refine the programme based on participant feedback while remaining committed to delivering high-quality, evidence-informed parenting support. I am grateful for God’s blessings and optimistic for what we have and will continue to achieve together.

Dr. Terrie Blackman
PEP Programme Coordinator



Meet the Expert: Training the Trainers

One of the most rewarding aspects of my journey with the Parent Education Programme (PEP) has been witnessing the passion, openness and dedication of facilitators as they prepare to bring the programme to communities across Barbados.

These facilitators are parents themselves who understand that raising children can be both rewarding and challenging. Their diverse professional backgrounds, including social work, psychology, accounting, graphic design, youth development, education and special needs, brought rich perspectives to our training sessions.

Beyond sharing information, we created opportunities for meaningful discussions, shared experiences and personal reflection. The willingness of facilitators to be open and vulnerable demonstrated the trust that developed within the group. Confidentiality, mutual respect and an appreciation for differing perspectives were essential in creating a safe, supportive learning environment.

At the heart of PEP is a simple philosophy: we are not here to tell parents how to parent. Instead, we aim to equip parents and caregivers with practical skills and alternative approaches to navigate the realities of raising children today.

From the influence of technology to the pressures children face, parenting continues to evolve, and families need support that reflects these changing circumstances.

Our facilitators embrace this philosophy. They understand that every family's journey is different and that their role is to listen, encourage and share strategies without judgement.

As we prepare to engage parents and caregivers in communities across Barbados for Cohort 2, I am encouraged by our facilitators' commitment to empowering families. Their work embodies the spirit of Every Child Barbados and the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Ultimately, when we support parents, we strengthen families; when we strengthen families, we build stronger communities. Together, we can create a brighter future for every child in Barbados.

Mr. Fabian Sargeant
PEP Content Specialist

Voices from the Journey



I think that we can never know enough - knowledge is power. When I was first told about the programme, my schedule was pretty busy but I decided it was important to go forward because it was important to learn. I was able to hear more about parenting, give my experience to the other parents that were there, and to also learn more from the parents that were there. With us as a community we learned from one another and that experience was awesome.

We know that there are various ills happening in society right now, and it begins at home. In making us, the parents, better and then we influence the children to be better. So I would encourage anyone who is on the fence to come on out, come to the programme and take that bit of time from your schedule.

Janelle Collymore
Parent



I am a parent of two adult daughters and one grandson. I said I have adult daughters should I be involved? Then something said to me: you have your grandson and he spends a lot of time with you. And then in the church setting, I am now responsible for the junior choir and they go from the ages of 3 up to 12 with multiple personalities. So this is why I got involved.

I tried to encourage my older daughter to come and she joined the programme a little late but she was happy to join because it taught her a lot on how to deal with her 8 year old. It was an awesome programme. I really appreciate the thought and then the action that came behind it because I know that it will be a great help to many of us - in parenting, co-parenting, for grandparents and people planning to be parents So I'm praying to God that this will continue. I thank the government for seeing the need of it and for executing it.

Kathy Rollock
Parent, Grandparent & Caregiver



The format that the programme takes is built for parents to encourage each other, so you find a support arm and recognize that you're not going through it alone. It has created a family environment and participants actually started looking out for each other and giving each other tips. That is what we need in terms of bridging the gap between the parent and child and the issues that we are facing in our society.

What I want to guard against though is the thinking that this programme is for parents who have problems. This programme is one where you can bring your experience and you can share and you can learn. It's not a boot camp where we say you're a bad parent and you need help. We're saying let's work together, let's build together as a community and build one family at a time as we rescue the children of Barbados, the parents of Barbados and the families in Barbados so we can make Barbados a wonderful place to live in.

Cameron Pile
Trainer

PEP in numbers

What
have
we built
together?



34 certified
trainers



2 well-being
specialists



4 childcare
support



183 enrollments



90 participants



12 locations

Memorable Moments



Cohort 1 Training Sessions



PEP Community

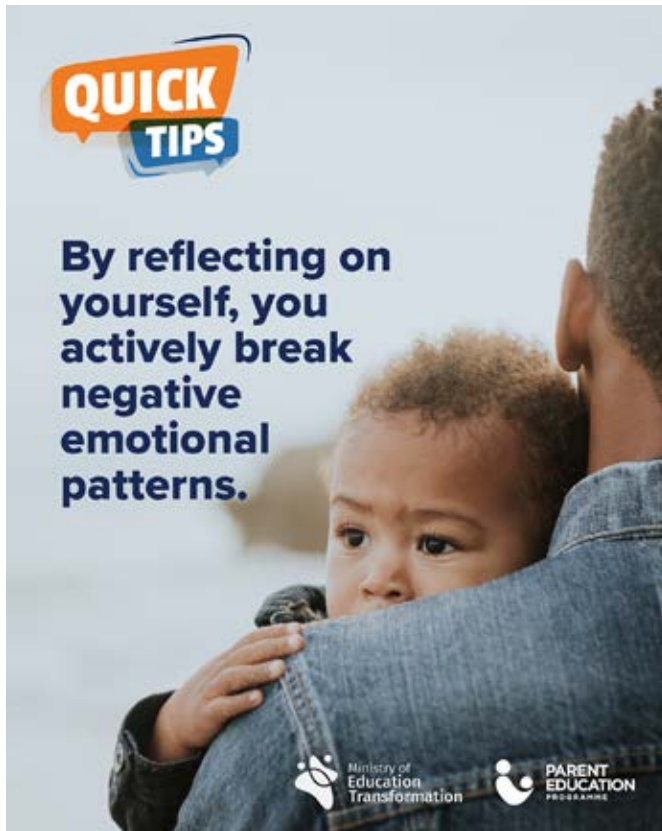
Family Day Celebration | September 12, 2026











► Get Involved!

You will learn alongside other parents in a relaxed, supportive environment.

There is NO COST to you.

The programme is **FREE** through the support of the Ministry of Education Transformation and Inter-American Development Bank.

► Join a session near you

- Scan the code to find a location that works for you.
- Register today and be part of a growing movement of parents working together for their children's future.



Scan me

