

# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION



**Facts & Figures Primary  
Education in Jamaica**





# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION



Clarendon, May Pen,  
Jamaica



# **SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION**

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- **Facts & Figures Primary  
Education in Jamaica**
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**Source: Unicef**










# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

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- There are 313,656 children aged 0 to 5 years old in Jamaica.
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- **Health** Immunization rates for all vaccines have been declining steadily since 2001
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# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

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- **(Health Continued)**
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- Children's nutritional status as reflected in low birth weight, low height for age (stunted) and low weight for height (wasted) has improved, but continues to lag behind international standards.
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# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- **Education.** Statistics indicate that there is enrollment of 96.4 percent of children from the relevant age cohort in early childhood institutions. There are 2,137 basic schools in the island, the vast majority of which are community-run institutions.

# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- Although enrollment is high, the quality of education, stimulation and care offered in some of these facilities leaves much to be desired.






# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- **Education (Continued)**


In some institutions staff are untrained, classrooms are crowded, there is a lack of resource material and inappropriate curricula.




# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION





- **Education (Continued)**



Currently there are moves to implement and enforce uniform standards and curricula under an Early Childhood Commission.



A system of registration is to be developed and instituted across the island.





## SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- **Primary School (6 to 9  
years)**

792 government-operated primary schools. There are also a number of privately operated, fee paying primary level institutions (called prep schools) in the island.



## SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- Primary school education is offered free but is not compulsory. About 94 percent of primary level age children are enrolled in primary schools but the daily attendance rate is significantly lower at 80.4 percent.

# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- Reasons for non-attendance include money problems and lack of interest in school.





## SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- While primary school education is free, the quality of the education provided sometimes falls below desired standards. The teacher pupil ratio is usually higher than the Education Ministry's average of 1:34, cited in its 2003/2004 Educational Digest.

# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- Classrooms are often overcrowded and school plants in need of maintenance and modernization.








# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- There is heavy reliance on the “talk and chalk” methodology, often because in the cramped space, there is little room for activity or use of interactive and participatory methodologies in classrooms.










# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

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- Low salaries are also cited by teachers as a cause for concern, and in recent years a number of teachers have been recruited from Jamaican classrooms and have left for more lucrative teaching jobs in the United Kingdom and North America.
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# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

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- **Socio-Economic Environment.**
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- Children are the most affected by the increasing violence in
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- Jamaica, as it undermines their
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- access to education, their
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- learning abilities, and affects their psychological and social well-being.



# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- Sometimes physical and psychological violence is inflicted on children by those entrusted with their care including parents, guardians and teachers.



## SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- A 2004 survey among Jamaican parents of six year olds found that the majority (46.6 percent) used physical assault as a disciplinary method with their children. This included spanking, beating, pinching, tying of hands and shaking.



## SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- Migration of parents who seek more lucrative employment abroad has had a negative impact on Jamaican children. Some children are left in the care of strangers, neighbours or even older siblings who are still children.



# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- These so-called “barrel children” are left without parental guidance or adult supervision and with access to significant material resources in the form of cash remittances and barrels of clothing and toys sent by absentee parents.

# SMITHVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTION

- How we can make a difference through the **Smithville Early Childhood Institution** catering for 3½ to 6 year olds:



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- For more information, look on our website:

[www.smitheci.org](http://www.smitheci.org)

✉ [info@smitheci.org](mailto:info@smitheci.org)

**Mrs Testa Walters (Principal)  
Smithville Early Childhood  
Institution, Smithville,  
PO Clarendon,  
Jamaica, West Indies**

