



ANTENATAL CLINIC

- PROCESS 1** Parenting Support
→ Referral Services eg. Home Visiting
- PROCESS 2** Preventive Health Care
→ Referral Services eg. Specialist Antenatal Care
- PROCESS 3** Family & Child Risk Screening
→ Referral Services eg. Path Programme



BIRTH

- PROCESS 1** Parenting Support
→ Referral Services eg. Home Visiting
- PROCESS 2** Preventive Health Care
→ Referral Services eg. Specialist Health Care
- PROCESS 3** Family & Child Risk Screening
→ Referral Services eg. Path Programme, Child Intervention Services



CHILD HEALTH CLINIC

- PROCESS 1** Parenting Support
→ Referral Services eg. Home Visiting
- PROCESS 2** Preventive Health Care
→ Referral Services eg. Specialist Health Care
- PROCESS 3** Family & Child Risk Screening
→ Referral Services eg. Path Programme, Child Intervention Services

CHILD HEALTH CLINIC VISITS



ENTRY TO EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTIONS

- PROCESS 1** Parenting Support
- PROCESS 3** Child Risk Screening
→ Referral Services eg. Child Intervention Services
- PROCESS 4** High Quality ECIs
- PROCESS 5** Trained EC Teachers



4 - 5 YEARS SCHOOL READINESS EVALUATION



6 YEARS TRANSITION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

NSP Facts You Should Know

What is Early Childhood?

Early childhood is the period of growth and development that children go through from the time they are in the womb until they are about eight years old.

Why is Early Childhood Important?

The experiences children have and the care and stimulation they receive during early childhood lay the foundation for every aspect of their lives. Children who get high quality care and stimulation during early childhood are healthier, get along better with others, learn faster and do better in school. Therefore they will grow up to be educated, well-thinking, productive members of society.

What is the National Strategic Plan (NSP)?

The NSP is a 5 year plan aimed at improving early childhood programmes and services for young children.

How will the NSP Work?

NSP takes what is called the "life cycle approach" and is designed to meet the needs of our children from they are in the womb until they are out of the early childhood stage. The Early Childhood Commission and its partners in other ministries and agencies will work together to improve early childhood development through the following processes:

- Process 1:** **Effective Parenting Education and Support**
Provide parents and caregivers with the support and training they need to effectively raise young children
- Process 2:** **Effective Preventive Health Care**
Ensure that a health care system that takes good care of children and works with parents to avoid preventable illnesses is in place
- Process 3:** **Early and Effective Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention for "At Risk" Children and Households**
Put good screening systems in place so that children who are at risk for health, behavioural, developmental or learning problems or who live in situations that could harm their development can be identified early to ensure that families and children receive the help that they need.
- Process 4:** **Safe, Learner Centred, Well-maintained Early Childhood Facilities**
Ensure that early childhood institutions (ECIs) are safe, well-maintained and nurturing and able to meet the developmental needs of children.
- Process 5:** **Effective Curriculum Delivery by Trained EC Practitioners**
Ensure that all early childhood practitioners are trained to help children develop and reach their full potential.

In order to achieve these goals, the right working environment must be in place to ensure the success of the NSP. This means that:

- Working Environment Process 1:** All the persons and organizations who work with children or provide programmes and services for them must work together to achieve the targets set
- Working Environment Process 2:** Decisions on how to improve the quality of early childhood development in Jamaica must be made based on timely, clear, current, and accurate information.
- Working Environment Process 3:** Public education
- Working Environment Process 4:** Resource mobilization

We all have a part to play in making the NSP work.
So, let us all work together to give our children the best start in life!