



### **Karlene DeGrasse-Deslandes**

She is the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Commission (ECC), Jamaica’s agency with responsibility for their Early Childhood Sector.

In her previous role as Director of Regulations and Monitoring at the Commission, Mrs. Deslandes has had responsibility for developing and coordinating strategies for registration, regulation and standardization of the services being offered by Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs) across Jamaica. She was also involved in the development of Regional Minimum Standards for Early Childhood and instrumental in the achievement of targets within her areas of responsibility for both National Strategic Plans for Early Childhood Development (ECD) 2008 – 2013 and 2013 – 2018.

Mrs. DeGrasse-Deslandes developed the registration and inspection systems required for the operation, management and administration of ECIs. She has developed the Inspectors’ Guide to Successful Inspections; Template for Early Childhood Inspection Report; and the Registration and Inspection Units of the Early Childhood Inspector Training Manual. She has assisted in the development of the Standards for the Operation, Management and Administration of Early Childhood Institutions, and was part of the team that developed Regional Standards for Early Childhood.

Mrs. DeGrasse-Deslandes became Executive Director of the ECC in 2017. She is now a fundamental part of the development of the National ECD Policy and the development of the critical 0 – 3 strategy which promotes greater government involvement with parents and children in a first 1000 days of a child’s life.

She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Economics and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Social Work. She pursued further post graduate studies in Social Work Policy and Administration at Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, Florida.

She remains passionate about children and is currently Jamaica’s representative on CARICOM’s Technical Working Group for Early Childhood.



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