**UWI Mona’s Influence on Early Childhood Teaching Standards and Qualifications Requirements**

**Policy Influenced:**
Guidelines regarding placement of trained early childhood teachers in Grades 1 and 2 in primary schools

**Year Implemented:** 2010

**Objective of the Policy:**
- To improve young children’s learning and literacy development through more effective early childhood appropriate teaching approaches and methods.

**Summary:**
Though early childhood teacher training prepares teachers to teach children from birth through age 8 (includes primary Grades 1 & 2), there had been no specific policy of the Ministry of Education that required teachers at grades 1 and 2 to be qualified in early childhood education. It had therefore not been common practice to specifically employ early childhood trained teachers to work in primary Grades 1 and 2.

Dr. Davies’ research examined the redeployment of early childhood teachers in Grade 1 classrooms. The findings revealed that placing early childhood trained teachers in the lower grades of primary school resulted in increased student achievement.

**Impact of the Policy on Education:**
The findings from this research were shared with the Senior Policy Group of the Ministry of Education, Jamaica, in support of a policy consideration related to teacher qualification and deployment in the lower primary school. The guidelines are currently used to influence practice in early childhood education.

**Reference**