



## THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **BUILDING PARENTING SKILLS AND STRONGER FAMILIES**

The Child Development Division within the Ministry of Family, Gender Affairs, persons with Disabilities, Local Government and Labour launched a Parenting Education Programme (PEP), under the theme “Stronger Parents; Stronger Families”.

This initiative forms part of the ministry’s commitment to strengthening families and supporting the development and overall well-being of children across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The first in a series of these workshops was held at the Ministry of Health’s Conference Room today.

Parents of the Lodge Village Government were the first targeted attendees of the Workshop, discussions included positive discipline, effective communication, strengthening the parent child relations and creating supportive environments. A team of dedicated Social Workers, Counsellors, Child Protection Officers, and Teachers were present at the workshop.

Addressing the forum, Minister of the Family, Hon. Laverne Gibson-Velox commended the parents for attending, she referred to them as heroes, noting that attendance is usually limited in such forums.

Minister Velox also noted that the workshop is not only about learning, it is about building a community of empowered and confident parents.

“As we move forward, let us reaffirm our collective responsibility to safeguarding our children and strengthen our families. The stronger our family units are the more resilient children will be to the ills of society that threatens to erode their ability to add value to our country as adults,” Minister Velox said.

Principal of the Lodge Village Government School, Ruthlyn Abbott conveyed a strong and direct message, stating that “the success of students relies on the environment they are exposed to. When students feel valued, student- teacher relationship emerge stronger. There are no prefect parents, no prefect or model school, let us use the time to interact, participate openly about barriers that limit parent- student communication, effective teacher- student collaboration,”.

The workshop and community sessions are designed to promote positive parenting practices and reduce violence against children as well as equipping parents with practical tools and effective strategies that result in non-violent discipline, improves communication, and create supportive home environments.

This year the Child Development Division will be conducting workshops in schools across the country. The Parenting Education Programme will be delivered in six communities; Kingstown, Campden Park, Layou, Belair, Stubbs and Greiggs.

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