



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Spreads Christmas Cheer

Port of Spain--- On Monday 18th December, 2023 the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) hosted a Storytelling session at the Ministry's Library located at ABMA Building on St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain. Children of the staff of the MSDFS were invited to the Storytelling event which was hosted as part of the Ministry's Values, Attitudes and Behaviours (VABs) campaign which ultimately aims to change negative societal norms into more positivity.

The MSDFS' Library staff decked the Library's Hall with a complete cosy Christmas theme to mark the occasion, to the delight of the children who were eager to partake of an event packed with fun filled activities. Deputy Permanent Secretary (DPS) at the Ministry, Mrs. Vera Deonanan-Balkaran was on hand to read a Christmas story to the children which was entitled, 'How Santa Got His Job'. DPS Deonanan-Balkaran gave a very animated delivery of the story, much to delight of the young audience who were invited to engage with her during the story by answering questions she posed throughout the recital.

Children in attendance were treated to festive goodies, face-painting, crafts and were also given a Christmas token. This initiative was part of the Ministry's internal VABs campaign, whereby the Ministry encourages staff to subscribe to a sense of belonging and care for each other, while expressing some of the Ministry's core values of Respect, Equity, Integrity, Compassion, Responsiveness, Innovation, Commitment, Inclusivity and Resilience. Through the Campaign staff members are encouraged to ***Be the Change***, in order to ***See the Change!***



Deputy Permanent Secretary (DPS) at the Ministry, Mrs. Vera Deonanan-Balkaran reads to children during the VABs Storytelling Activity.



Children get their faces painted during the VABs Storytelling Activity.

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For more information:

Corporate Communications and Education Unit
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5400-5411
cceu@social.gov.tt