VISIONS ON PARENTING AND PARENTING SUPPORT CURAÇAO

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Reading Guide Final Report

Vision on Parenting



In Curaçao, parents raise their children with intention, love, and respect, providing them the opportunity to develop into happy, independent, and resilient adults

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children

This reading guide is intended to help readers effectively navigate through this document about parenting and parenting support in Curaçao. The vision document consists of several coherent sections that offer insights from various perspectives, highlighting the essential elements needed to establish an appropriate and effective parenting support system in Curaçao.



Five core values for parenting

In 2017, the Ministry of Social Development, Labor and Welfare organized parenting debates in various neighborhoods on the island. In these parenting discussions, stakeholders, parents, children, and young people shared their experiences with parenting and explored how positive parenting practices can be implemented. From these debates, a vision for parenting in Curaçao emerged, along with five core values that are regarded as foundational to parenting.

Basic principles of parenting support

This part outlines several important basic principles that guide the development of children at different life stages, address the needs of parents associated with these phases, and highlight potential challenges that may arise. It presents various definitions and explains the different forms of parenting support available.

The Theory of Change

This visual representation illustrates the change process, highlighting how an integrated and strategic approach can yield the desired results and intended impact. The explanation of the 2-Generation Approach emphasizes the simultaneous focus on both the child and the parent(s).² By detailing the three areas of interest - demand side, supply side, and support side, it becomes evident that a comprehensive approach addressing all three areas is essential. In addition, the schematic representation outlines the specific intended results and establishes connections between the different levels: output, outcome, and impact.

Current offer of parenting support

This section presents the current range of parenting support available. By aligning the vision with the existing offerings, areas can be identified that require adjustments, additional focus, or reinforcement.

From vision to reality: the explanation

This part of the document elaborates on the reasoning behind the vision, describing the thought process and the journey toward the intended changes. It provides further context and background, making the Theory of Change more understandable and relatable.

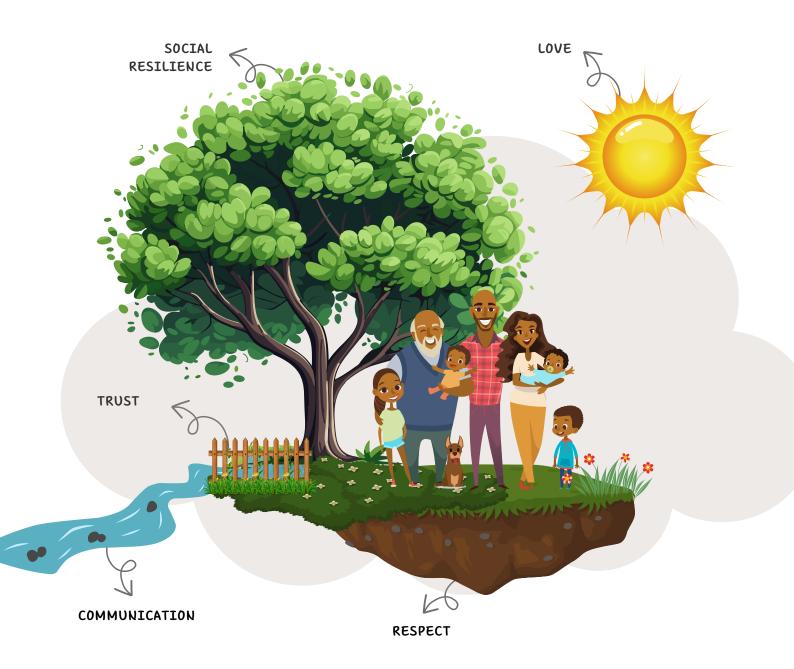
Demographic information

An overview of key demographic data supports the choices made in the report and clarifies the evidencebased approach that underpins the vision.

Vision and Core Values for Parenting in Curação



In Curaçao, parents raise their children with intention, love, and respect, providing them the opportunity to develop into happy, independent, and resilient adults



In the process of developing a vision for parenting, discussions were held with numerous parents and professionals in Curaçao. Together, they crafted a vision for parenting and established five core values: **love**, **respect**, **trust**, **communication**, and **social resilience**. The garden symbolizes positive parenting, representing the ongoing attention, care, and nurturing environment needed for growth. The sun embodies **love**, which is essential for the well-being of children and families. **Respect**, like the earth, is a fundamental element that provides the foundation for strong and healthy development, rooted in feelings of self-esteem. The various plants and trees in the garden symbolize **social resilience**, as they withstand difficult times and adapt to their surroundings. Water is vital for the garden, akin to the **communication** that flows between parents and between parents and their children. Lastly, the fence represents **trust**, establishing boundaries, and creating a safe environment.

The Principles of Parenting Support

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children



THE 2-GENERATION APPROACH

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children

Social capital

- Social networks are important for both
- parents and children, both in the form of
- formal and informal forms of support
- (including peer groups).

Early childhood development + education

The first years of life^{*} are critical for children's optimal development and future academic success. Coordination between education at home, childcare and school is essential. *Early childhood and the teenage years are pivotal stages of life, defined by significant growth and development. These periods, therefore, require special attention when it comes to supporting parents in raising their children.

Parent-focused

comily suppor

Economic stability

Families with a low income can experience high levels of stress, which can undermine family well-being. This can negatively impact their overall well-being and family dynamics.

Family-friendly employment

Work environments and employer policies that consider employees' family life needs help them achieve a better work-family life balance. This, in turn, can enhance their overall well-being and productivity while fostering positive family dynamics and promoting gender equality.

Health and well-being

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Physical and emotional well-being are essential for children and their parents. For children, this is particularly important for their healthy development.
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs*) can affect their physical and mental health throughout their lives.

*Adverse Childhood Experiences are adverse (negtrive) experiences in childhood that affect a child's brain development. Therefore these can have a lifelong impact on health and well-being. Examples of negative experiences include personal experiences with physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, (witnessing) relationship violence, substance abuse, chronic mental illness within the family, absence of one or both biological parents and inchroreration of a family member.

Child-focused

Interventions focused on the child with attention to the parents



Interventions focused on the parents with attention to the child



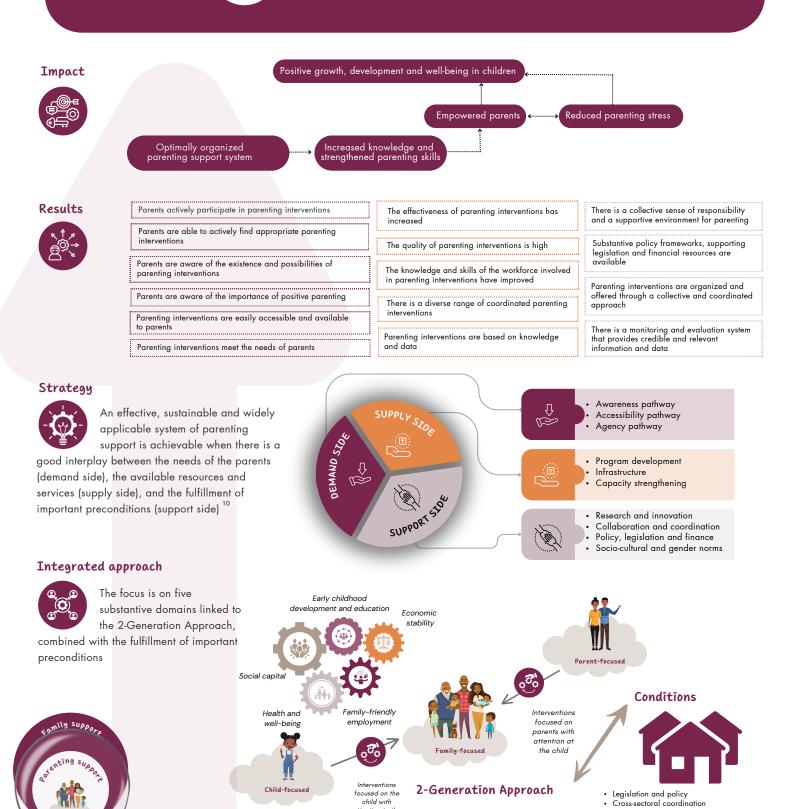
In the process of developing a vision for parenting support, parents and professionals in Curaçao have called for a holistic and inclusive system of parenting support. They expressed a preference for a 2-Generation Approach that simultaneously addresses the needs and aspirations of both children and their parents.

THE THEORY OF CHANGE

VISION ON Parenting SUPPORT



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children



Starting point

There is a need to establish a holistic and inclusive system of parenting support to promote positive parenting

Positive parenting

attention to the

parents

Parental behavior based on the best interest of the child, that is nurturing, stimulating, empowering, non-violent and provides recognition and guidance which involves setting of boundaries to enable the full development of the child 11, 12

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Sufficient capacity (human resources and funding)

Monitoring and evaluation

ELABORATION OF CHANGE STRATEGY

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children

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Awareness pathway

The awareness pathway includes activities aimed at informing and educating individuals, groups and the general public about the existence, benefits and availability of parenting interventions

Accessibility pathway

The accessibility pathway aims to ensure that parenting support interventions are easily available to all parents and families, with a focus on potentially vulnerable and/or hard-to-reach populations* by removing logistical, psychological and socio-cultural barriers

Agency pathway

The agency pathway involves empowering parents and families with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to actively seek out and engage in parenting interventions that address their questions and needs

*Examples of vulnerable and/or difficult to reach populations are fathers, parents with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, migrant parents and teenage

SUPPLY SIDE

Program development

Developing and adapting effective, evidence-based forms of parenting support, including materials and tools, that address the diverse needs and preferences of parents

Infrastructure

Creating a supportive infrastructure for parenting support, encompassing physical locations, digital platforms and other resources that can enhance the services provided

Capacity strengthening

Ensuring ongoing training, coaching, and supervision with an emphasis on enhancing the competence of practitioners to effectively share knowledge and strengthen parents' skills in positive parenting

SUPPORT SIDE

Research and innovation

Developing, monitoring, and evaluating interventions, as well as exploring innovative methods and technologies to promote effectiveness and efficiency, and to encourage continuous improvement

Collaboration and coordination

Optimizing collaborative efforts among stakeholders (both government and nongovernmental organizations) and efficiently coordinating parenting interventions

Polīcy, legīslatīon and fīnance

Focusing on integrated policy frameworks with sufficient financial resources and supporting legislation to develop, adapt and/or expand new interventions

Social-cultural and gender norms

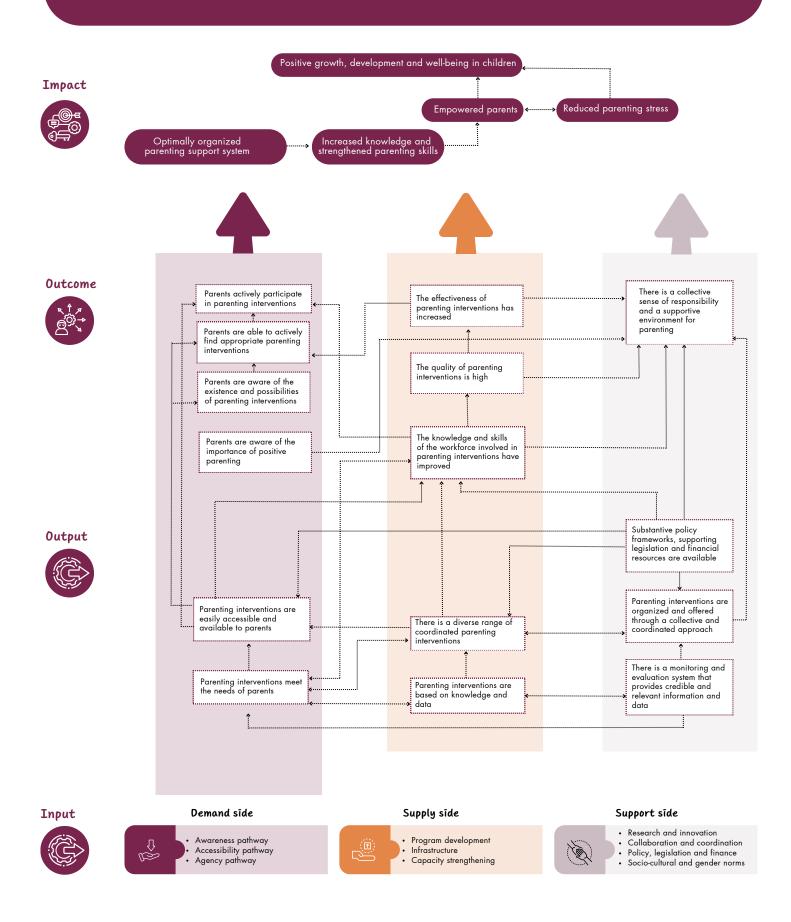
Addressing the influence of social norms, cultural and gender-related values, and traditions on parenting behavior, while engaging the community to collectively encourage positive change

ELABORATION OF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children



CURRENT OFFER OF PARENTING SUPPORT

VISION ON Parenting SUPPORT



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children

Individual approach

Mediation and coaching (Hoek & Steen)

Group-based approach

- Alerta (Federatie Antilliaanse Jeugdzorg)
- Ekipá pa Eduká (Federatie Antilliaanse Jeugdzorg) 🔮 👩 🏅

Mixed approach

- Family therapy and parenting guidance (PSI Skuchami)
- Guidance for foster parents (Pleegzorgcentrale Stichting Maatschappelijke Zorg en Herstel)



Individual approach

- 🔹 Eduká Konsiente (SIGE) 🎽 🍟 👳 🐺 🎙
- Pedagogical guidance for parents Ministerie SOAW / Sector Familie en Jeugd
- Guidance for parents with children aged 0 4 years (Witgele Kruis Mama di Bon Konseho) 🤶
- Conscious Discipline (Grow with me Orthopedagogie) 👝

Group-based approach

- Bon Kriá (SIFMA / ODIM) 🤶 🕯
- 🔹 Eduká Dediká (SIFMA / ODIM) 🧕 🛉
- Teenager in the house (SIGE) 1
- Workshops for parents and professionals (E mucha) 🤶 🗍
- Krese Salú (SIGE) 🧯 🦉 👳 ቾ 🖤
- Training/formashon di edukashon (Youth in Development Foundation) P

Mixed approach

- Home Training Stimulashon Trempan (SIGE)
- Breastfeeding education (Fundashon Lechi di Mama)
- Triple-P (Ministerie SOAW/Sector F&J en andere (N)GO's)*
- Workshop and guidance for parents (La Casa del Venezolano) 👳
- Pedagogical guidance for parent and child (E mucha) <a>[2]
- Education for children, young people and their parents (FFAPM) 🧕

	••••••••• get groups	•
	Prenatal period	•
9	Postpartum period	•
2	7 months - 3 years	•
Ĩ	4 - 9 years	•
Ŷ	10 - 17 years	•
Ť	18 - 24 years	•
• • •	•••••	•

*Triple P is coordinated by the Ministry of SOAW / Sector of Family and Youth and implemented by a group of trainers working at the Ministry of SOAW and various other organizations in Curaçao

FROM VISION TO REALITY: THE EXPLANATION

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children

Introduction

The Ministry of Social Development, Labor, and Welfare (SOAW), in close collaboration with UNICEF the Netherlands, has developed a vision for parenting support and a resource directory for parenting interventions in Curaçao. This effort builds on a national vision for parenting established during community debates held in various neighborhoods in Curaçao in 2018.¹ To further this initiative, interactive consultation sessions were conducted in October 2023, involving representatives from the government, non-governmental organizations, and parents. In addition, a questionnaire was created to systematically assess existing parenting interventions. Based on these consultations, a draft vision for parenting support was developed. The outcomes of these consultation rounds served as the foundation for creating a Theory of Change, which outlines the the vision for parenting support and visually depicts the steps and preconditions necessary to realize this vision.

Basic principles of parenting support

In this section, the fundamental principles of the Curaçaoan approach to parenting support are outlined and explained. Besides placing the child at the center, the main premise is that all parents, regardless of background or personal circumstances, should be equipped with appropriate knowledge and skills to foster the positive development of their children. Parenting support should be easily accessible and available, taking into account the changing needs of parents across various socioeconomic groups with specific attention to vulnerable and/or potentially hard-to-reach groups, such as fathers, parents with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, migrant parents and teenage parents. The approach is scientifically grounded and strengthens family capacities, promotes (gender) equality, is inclusive, culturally sensitive and focuses on collaboration between all stakeholders.

There is also a focus on positive gender socialization -the process in which individuals, from a young age, are encouraged to adopt positive and healthy perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors related to gender, thereby contributing to fostering an environment of respect, equality, and inclusivity. Explicit attention is also given to adolescence, a critical period when gender attitudes and behaviors deepen, and new gender roles emerge. It is also a time when the negative consequences of certain gender norms start to appear. In addition, there is emphasis on promoting balanced relationships between parents, where (ex) partners share the responsibility for raising children.

Definitions

To provide clarity, several key concepts such as 'parents' and 'family support' are defined, explaining why it is important to adopt a life-course approach that recognizes the different life stages and transition periods. Parents carry their child experiences with them, shaping and influencing their role in raising children. The life-course approach emphasizes the importance of targeted support during crucial transitions, promoting development and helping to proactively identify and address challenges in upbringing and parenting. In addition, the visual representation highlights that there are various types and levels of support, and it addresses specific challenges that impact the parenting process. This clear explanation enables policymakers, service providers, and educators to speak a common language and promotes a coherent and inclusive approach to parenting support in Curaçao, taking into account the diverse needs and backgrounds of families and individuals

The 2-Generation Approach

The infographic "The 2-Generation Approach" presents a holistic vision of parenting support in Curaçao, focusing on empowering parents with the right knowledge, skills, and resources to support the growth, development, and well-being of children. This framework highlights the importance of strengthening social networks and promoting a life-course approach, with particular attention to early childhood development and adolescence, as these are critical periods of rapid growth and development. It also emphasizes the need to ensure economic stability and promote health and well-being. This strategic approach recognizes that children's success is closely linked to the well-being of their parents, the family dynamics, and the broader community. By combining interventions that target both the child and parents, this approach aims to create a positive impact on the entire community, with a focus on creating a stable and supportive environment for parenting

The Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for parenting support in Curaçao is a strategic framework that outlines a detailed path toward realizing a vision where all parents are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children. This framework focuses on raising general awareness about the importance of positive parenting, thereby laying a common foundation for the acceptance and integration of support principles within the community. The Theory of Change clearly illustrates the path from identified needs to concrete outputs, outcomes, and impact.

Elaboration of the change strategy

The change strategy consists of a three-pronged, cohesive approach focusing on the supply side, the demand side, and the support side. This integrated approach ensures that parenting support is accessible to all parents, which is crucial for creating equal opportunities for every family. Empowering parents to take charge is central, allowing them to build the capacity and confidence to lead the parenting process. This is supported by the development of programs tailored to their specific needs, increasing the relevance and applicability of the support. A strong infrastructure forms the backbone for delivering these programs, which may range from individual coaching to community meetings. The skills of parenting staff are enhanced to ensure effective and empathetic support and/or guidance.

Ongoing evaluation through research ensures that the programs continue to evolve and improve, while collaboration among various stakeholders fosters innovation. By recognizing the interdependence between the demand for and the supply of parenting support, the approach ensures that services closely align with the actual needs of both parents and children. In this way, the Theory of Change transforms the vision of parenting support into concrete and effective practice, delivering sustainable and positive results for Curaçaoan families.

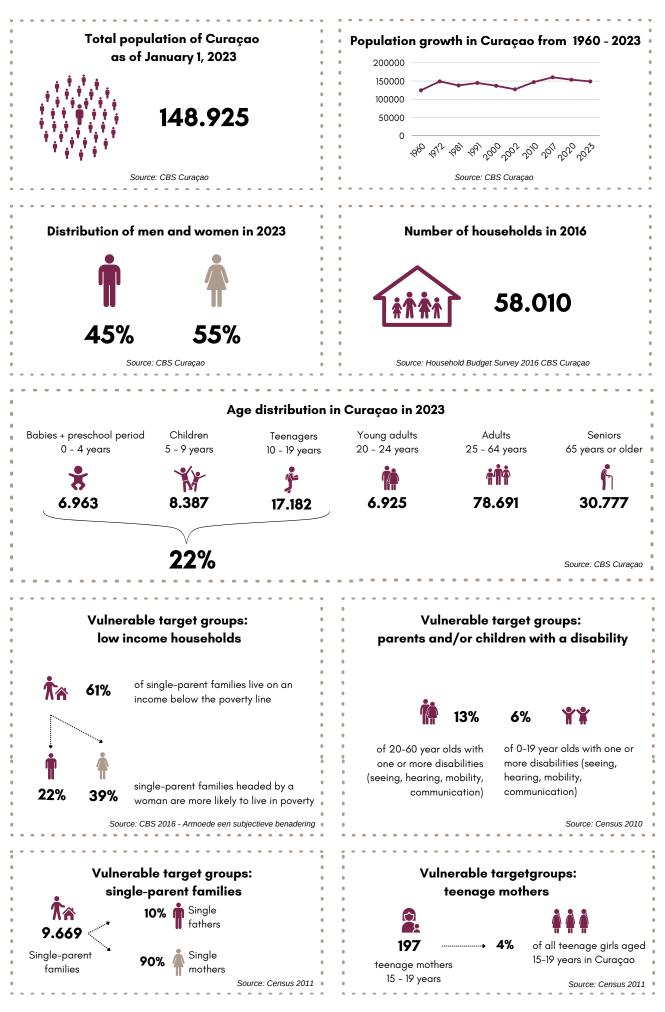
Current offer of parenting interventions

The overview of parenting interventions provides an overview of all currently known parenting interventions in Curaçao. The classification used in this vision document distinguishes between types of parenting support: universal parenting support, selective parenting support, and indicated parenting support. Within these types of parenting support, further classification is made based on how parents are approached: individual approach, group-oriented approach, or mixed approach. It is notable that at present in Curaçao, mainly universal parenting support is offered, with selective and indicated parenting support being offered to a lesser extent.

Universal parenting support refers to light support forms aimed at generally improving education and parenting practices. This form of parenting support is aimed at all parents. Selective parenting support targets parents at additional risk of problems related to raising children and parenthood, for example due to socio-economic circumstances or because one of the parents or the child has a disability. Indicated parenting interventions are intended for parents experiencing problems related to parenting and growing up.

Various methods or approaches can be used to offer parenting support to parents, depending on their needs. Parenting support can be offered through interpersonal contact between professionals and parents, either on an individual basis or in groups. Parenting support can also be offered without interpersonal contact, using media and/or technological support. Universal parenting support often uses mass media, including awareness campaigns, as they can reach large groups. Individual, group-oriented, and mixed approaches typically involve interpersonal contact, technological support, or a combination

Demographic Background Information



Concluding Remarks

With the completion of this vision document on parenting and parenting support, we are taking a fundamental step towards a hopeful future for the children in Curaçao. Our commitment to providing parents with evidence-based parenting programs and interventions is at the core of our mission to improve children's well-being and protect them from abuse and neglect. This document is more than a plan; it is a promise to our current and future generations. It reflects our collective responsibility and our strategic decision to intensify and expand support to parents and caregivers. By developing a clear vision, creating a resource directory for parenting support, and promoting targeted communication and research, we are building a foundation for a society where every child has the opportunity to grow up in a stimulating, safe, and loving environment.

The effectiveness, scalability, and cost-effectiveness of parenting programs and interventions are clear. They provide essential support to parents and caregivers in their crucial role as educators. Parenting support is also essential for children as it helps them develop into healthy, happy, and resilient individuals.

Let us embrace this vision document as a guide for action and as a source of inspiration. Together, we can bring about sustainable change and ensure a safe, loving environment where every child in Curaçao has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our commitment today determines the strength and resilience of future generations. Let's work together to make this promise a reality.

Curaçao, June 2024

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Appendix I: Priorities 2024-2025

Vision on Parenting Support



All parents in Curaçao are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to promote the positive growth, development, and well-being of children

Action plan 2024 - 2025

In consultation with professionals and parents, the vision for parenting support was validated on February 22, 2024. A joint brainstorming session identified priority activities to bring this vision to life. It became clear that the initial focus should be on:

- Anchoring the implementation process
- Raising awareness and improving communication about achieving a better work- family life balance, particularly among parents
- Gaining deeper insights into the challenges, needs, and preferences of parents and employers
- Achieving tangible short-term successes

This represents the first step; at a later stage, a detailed implementation plan will be developed, outlining responsibilities, specific activities, milestones, timelines, and budget.

