

Nelson Street Boys Roman Catholic Primary School

The ARROW Programme

Testimonial

The Arrow programme began in September 2018 at Nelson Street Boys' R.C. School. I particularly like this programme because it is a multi-sensory teaching/learning approach/technique to help our students in their reading, spelling, dictation, speech and listening skills. The programme started off with 25 students from the std 1,2 and 4 levels and expanded with an additional 25 students from the std 1 and std 3 level. ARROW in my humble view is particularly suitable for teaching boys to read. This program encourages increased speaking and listening skills.

Some successes reported by teachers of standards 1 to 4, one year later:

- It has improved student's vocalization skills, confidence to talk, and share their answers and ideas in class as well as the public.
- Most of the students who were involved in the programme are now reading at their current class level.
- There has also been an improvement in students' reading fluency.
- I have also noticed a reduction of inappropriate behavior of some students who are a part of the programme and I believe it is because of their level of success in reading. Feedback from parents has also been very positive. Parents are reporting that their sons have a renewed interest in doing homework and class work

What I also appreciate is that teachers were also trained to use the programme. As a result they were able to continue to work with their struggling students even on days they were not timetabled by the prescribed facilitator for the programme.

This programme also included a Trauma Workshop in November. Fourteen (14) out of 16 teachers attended. At this workshop we all learnt the importance of being trauma informed: recognizing signs of trauma and the impact of trauma on the brain development. This programme was fantastic, especially since many of our students are from a depressed, poverty stricken environment. Most of the teachers do not live in Port of Spain and this gave us an insight on what our students are experiencing and how we can help them to reduce the trauma they experience on a regular basis, instead of adding to it.

I Thank you on behalf of our students, who are now growing from strength to strength; our teachers, who have a greater sense of satisfaction, seeing the positive effect their efforts are having on their kids, and; our parents, who cannot help but see the transformation in their sons and the increased possibilities available to them.

Regards,

*Frances Gervais-Heath*

Principal Primary (Ag)