



## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

### **SUMMARY OF PRIMARY SPANISH CURRICULUM**

#### **RATIONALE**

Our geographical location, gateway to the Spanish-speaking Americas, and current regional and international economic trends and their implications for Trinidad and Tobago, create an imperative for strengthening and deepening the national capability in Spanish at all levels and has given rise to the declaration of Spanish as the First Foreign language of Trinidad and Tobago.

Research and experience have shown that the infant years are the most opportune time to begin the learning of a foreign language and to develop an appreciation of and openness to other peoples and cultures. Beginning to speak a language at this level makes possible the acquisition of native-like pronunciation and fluency, supports the learning of the native-language and engenders confidence and willingness to use the language.

#### **GOALS**

- Develop basic oral/aural Spanish proficiency among primary-age students
- Create a greater awareness of Hispanic cultures, Spanish-speaking countries and peoples in the region
- Reinforce and increase knowledge of other subject areas through content-based Spanish language instruction (e.g. Social Studies, English).
- Foster a love for foreign language study in all students
- Enhance the levels of achievement in Spanish at the secondary level

#### **METHODOLOGIES OF INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**

The themes, functional objectives and structures presented in the Primary curriculum, beginning at the Infants Level and sequentially developed across levels, are designed to be implemented by a trained and qualified teacher using a communicative approach. There is a focus on oral communication, with the underlying purpose of making the learning of Spanish a pleasurable experience for all children, utilizing rich culturally-anchored activities. Formative, performance based assessments are recommended without the pressures of formalized written exams.

#### **TOPICS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>KEY FUNCTIONS</b>	<b>KEY NOTIONS</b>
Infants Year I	Exchanging greetings and other social courtesies	Numbers, 1-10, the Alphabet
Infants Year II	Identifying self and others	Numbers 1-20, Colours
Standard I	Identifying objects	Colours, Shape, Size
Standard II	Describing people and things	Personal and Physical Qualities
Standard III	Talking about leisure and school activities	Time (Days, Months, Hours). Frequency
Standard IV	Describing places	Distance, Relative location
Standard V	Integration of all functions and notions Infants to Standard IV	