



# HAPPY HOUSE

Breds Treasure Beach Sports Park  
Treasure Beach, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica



A project of



A community centre for play-based learning



[Happy House](#) is the first of its kind.

Our objective is happy children.

This primary coloured open plan 18' x 25' space is stocked with recommended learning tools - all accessible to the children - and staffed with a trained early childhood educator.

Here:

- [Children](#) engage in play-based learning after school and during the holidays
- [Teachers](#) gather for professional development and learn new techniques that they can take to their schools
- [Parents](#) engage with their children, volunteer and even host their own activities



## HAPPY HOUSE IS FOR CHILDREN

Children feel ownership of [Happy House](#). It was designed to be this way. No learning tool is off limits and children freely explore as they see fit encouraging self-determination.

Learning through play in [Happy House](#) helps augment learning in the classroom. For example, parents and teachers have asked for a greater focus on literacy, and we incorporate their feedback through play-based learning such as literacy games and a karaoke machine.

During school holidays, like the summer and other breaks, we see a significant boom in activity with large numbers of children coming to visit [Happy House](#).



The vibrancy of these experiences has helped to cement [Happy House](#) as a community institution.

## HAPPY HOUSE IS FOR TEACHERS

Happy House has hosted teacher workshops with visiting professionals in areas like yoga, meditation and child therapy. The teachers have taken these techniques back to their classrooms.



Teachers bring students for field trips, even those from primary schools and neighboring communities and parishes. Additionally, our resources have been used by schools to supplement their needs.



It is also the hub of Do Good Jamaica's ongoing teacher professional development program with consultants from the Caribbean Child Development Centre of the University of the West Indies, Open Campus (CCDC).





## HAPPY HOUSE IS FOR PARENTS

Happy House is a place where parents can engage with their children in new ways and with new resources. Parents come to read stories, do activities with children and even volunteer at events.

Parents have also started to take ownership of the activities at the house with some asking to lead their own sessions, like making science fun and introducing others to the use of space.



## MEET OUR EDUCATOR

### AUNTY TRACY



Tracy-Ann Malcolm is a trained early childhood educator with over a decade of experience working in Treasure Beach.

Tracy leads [Happy House](#)'s programs, working with children - individually and in groups.

People frequently call on her for early childhood development advice. To meet this demand, we've supplemented her existing qualifications with further training.

Tracy has trained intensively with the CCDC and attended several workshops. Her training is an investment in [Happy House](#)'s mission to create meaningful change.



Tracy is a mentor to early childhood institutions in the area and works with parents and other teachers, even those outside the community.





## SPECIAL EVENTS

Even though every day is play day at [Happy House](#), sometimes we have extra special activities.

For example, part of [Happy House](#)'s focus on resilience is greater environmental awareness and climate consciousness in this coastal, rural, fishing and farming community. So we find innovative ways to engage the children and their parents and teachers.



Our first Environmental Arts day featured special guest New Wave, a collective of local talent. The event leveraged art and culture – musical, visual and performance based.



Our first year has been awesome. Here's a few more of our special happy moments



When children share new experiences with visiting experts who teach them new things in [Happy House](#).

When [Happy House](#) became a hub for environmental and climate consciousness.

When [Happy House](#) became a safe space for teachers to meet, relax & share their professional triumphs and challenges.

When [Happy House](#) became a space for parents - from inside and outside of the community - to share and help each other.

When [Happy House](#) became a resource for children with special needs in the community.







When [Happy House](#) became a central place for all children from Treasure Beach's sub-communities to play together.

When primary school students visit [Happy House](#) for field trips since they have little play-based learning in school, although the first three grades are in the early-childhood cohort.



When older siblings bring younger ones to [Happy House](#), and end up having just as much fun.



Teachers, Tots & Tools



**TREASURE BEACH**

A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

#### WEBSITE

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The structure and programs of  
Happy House have been made  
possible by the support of:

### BUILDING + LAND SPACE

Price Philanthropies  
Breds Treasure Beach Foundation  
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### PROGRAMS

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