

CHILDREN 1ST NEWSLETTER

16TH ISSUE - SPECIAL EDITION - SEPTEMBER 2025

Congratulations!



NATASHA ROSE HONOURED AS "MOST OUTSTANDING CHILDMINDER"

In a glittering ceremony at the Eden Bleu Hotel, Natasha Rose received the inaugural award for Most Outstanding Childminder.

"I share this award with all childminders, that we continue to work well together and continue to give high quality care to our young children."



NATASHA REINE WINNER OF THE EMERGING TALENT AWARD



THE MOST ENGAGED CHILDMINDER IS MARIE-MAY HOAREAU



DANIELLA SAVY WON THE INNOVATIVE PRACTICE AWARD



THE PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD WENT TO ALICE JEAN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVE



MS. DANIELLA ANTAT

Brief Profile

The Advocacy, Information and Capacity Building Section met with Ms. Daniella Antat, Chair of the Excellence Award Committee, to discuss the judging process and how the Committee spearheaded the initiative.

With over 47 years of dedicated service to education, Ms. Daniella's career began in 1973. She served with distinction as a teacher, Coordinator, and Headteacher at several schools, always emphasizing academic excellence and environmental education. She holds advanced qualifications, including a Master's Degree, and has studied Linguistics in the UK. Since retiring from full-time service in 2021, she has continued to support early childhood care and education as a consultant.

MEMBERS OF THE EXCELLENCE AWARD COMMITTEE



From Left to Right

Daniella Belise – Seychelles Fire Rescue Services Agency **Angel Jeannevol** – Social Affairs Department

Daniella Antat - Chair of the Excellence Award Committee **Michelle Fred** – Health Care Agency

Monia Course – Public Health **Elisca Zialor** – Retired Early Childhood Educator

The Judging Process

The committee was comprised of highly qualified representatives from sectors relating to the different National Standards for Childminders and award categories.

An initial review of a total of 117 files of childminders qualified for the Excellence Award, guided by a brief on each one. Following this initial review, a group of 20 childminders was shortlisted. The next critical phase involved unannounced visits to the shortlisted child care facilities on Mahe and Praslin. During those visits, each committee member evaluated specific standard(s) in line with the sector they represent. The committee then met to evaluate and deliberate, compile ratings using a point system, and calculate percentages for each facility.

Overall Impression

The committee was highly impressed by the level of professionalism demonstrated by many childminders. Ms. Daniella described the transformation of their homes into dedicated child care facilities as a “prestigious” effort.

So impressed were the committee members that they introduced a special Judges' Choice Award. This new addition was created to recognize childminders who demonstrated exceptional compliance and excellence in specific national standards, even if they were not the overall highest scorers across all criteria.

This initiative will surely help to elevate the quality of child care services in the next edition of the awards and will also encourage practicing childminders to register their services with IECD.

MOST ENGAGED CHILDMINDER AWARD



With a wealth of experience in the field of child care, Marie-May Hoareau registered her service with the IECD following her successful completion of the Pre-Registration and Sensitisation Training (PRESET) training. She also enriched her expertise by attending numerous training sessions and CPDs organised by the Institute. She is a highly dynamic and vivacious individual.

She coordinates a variety of outings, which are meticulously and consistently documented through photographs and recordings, such as videos and audio recordings. Her outings with the children focus on both the community engagement and her devotion to observable theme days.

She diligently observes a range of theme days, including but not limited to Peace Day, Cancer Awareness, Gender-Based Violence, the Creole Festival, and many others. These activities foster community involvement, enhance experiential learning, and raise awareness in various areas among young children at an early age. She serves as a role model in this aspect.



MARIE-MAY HOAREAU - MARIE MAY'S DAYCARE, ANSE BOILEAU

EMERGING TALENT AWARD



The childminder is formally enrolled with IECD following the PRESET training. She has also enriched her professional development by attending numerous other training sessions and CPDs organized by the institute. A very calm and soft-spoken person, she possesses a strong generational history of childcare and has achieved remarkable transformation by meticulously modifying her residence to ensure the safety of the children in her care.

As a result, her home has become a safe haven that effectively promotes the children's needs within a nurturing environment. The facility is well organized, making it suitable for the delivery of both indoor and outdoor activities. She is an exceptionally childminder who is dedicated to upholding and implementing high standards of home-based childcare, always placing the children's well-being and development at the heart of her practice.

NATASHA REINE - KIDDIES CHILDMINDING, ILE PERSEVERANCE 2

INNOVATIVE PRACTICE AWARD



DANIELLA SAVY - *DANNIES CHILDMINDING, MONT FLEURI*

Ms. Daniella Savy has a comprehensive background in child care, having worked for many years in a child care centre. She possesses a welcoming and outgoing demeanour. By utilising a diverse array of educational and recycling materials, she creates a child-friendly environment within her residence, which has been nearly transformed into a well-equipped child care centre.

Dannies Childminding actively encourages early learning among the children in its care. Despite operating within an apartment-style facility, her environment is incredibly engaging and stimulating. Ms. Daniella serves as a shining example in the implementation of standards – the foundation for later learning.

PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD



ALICE JEAN - *KIDS PLAY CHILD CARE, ANSE ROYALE*

At the Kids Play Child Care, Ms. Alice demonstrates high dedication, by completing all required steps to obtain her formal registration with IECD. This showcases her commitment to professional growth and excellence.

Well-composed, tolerant, and soft-spoken, she brings a calm and nurturing presence to her work. Her prior experience in the health sector has instilled in her a strong sense of responsibility and a deep commitment to maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety at all times.

Consistently implementing best practices and exhibiting positive behaviours, she ensures the well-being, development, and happiness of every child in her care. Her facility is meticulously organized, creating a warm, welcoming, and nurturing environment tailored to meet the diverse needs of children.

Throughout her career, Ms. Alice has demonstrated exceptional adherence to all national standards for home-based childcare in Seychelles. Her unwavering dedication, professionalism, and genuine passion for early childhood development make her a truly outstanding childminder, setting a benchmark for excellence in her field.

OUTSTANDING CHILDMINDER – NATASHA ROSE

Childminders are the architects of imagination, the healers of scraped knees, and the first teachers outside the home. Yet, for years, their work unfolded in the quiet background of daily life. On Saturday 13th September, 2025, that changed. In a landmark event at the Eden Bleu Hotel, the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute) brought childminders from Mahe, Praslin and La Digue into the spotlight, hosting its first-ever Childminders' Excellence Award ceremony to celebrate the profound impact these caregivers have on the island nation's future.

The evening's top honour, the Outstanding Childminders' Award, was presented to an emotional Ms. Natasha Rose of Natasha's Childminding in English River. Overcome with surprise, Ms. Natasha dedicated the accolade to her peers.



*"I share this award with all childminders,"
she said,
"that we continue to work well together
and continue to give high quality care
to our young children."*



NATASHA ROSE - NATASHA'S CHILDMINDING, ENGLISH RIVER



Ms. Natasha is described as a well-composed, tolerant, and soft-spoken caregiver who brings a calm and nurturing presence to her service. Her prior experience in the health sector has instilled in her a strong sense of responsibility and a deep commitment to maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety at all times.

Consistently implementing best practices and exhibiting positive behaviours, she ensures the well-being, development, and happiness of every child in her care. Her facility is meticulously organized, creating a warm, welcoming, and nurturing environment tailored to meet the diverse needs of children.

Throughout her career, she has demonstrated exceptional adherence to all national standards for home-based childcare in Seychelles. Her dedication, professionalism, and genuine passion for early childhood development make her a truly outstanding childminder, setting a benchmark for excellence in the field.

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD

Beyond the public and categorical awards, a special Judges' Choice Award was presented to six childminders who exemplified excellence in complying with the National Standards. This award specifically honored their meticulous commitment to established benchmarks in areas including Administration Child Health and Nutrition, Public Health, Safety, Early learning and Child Protection.



STANDARD - ADMINISTRATION: BRIGITTE HOAREAU, PERSEVERANCE



STANDARD - CHILD HEALTH & NUTRITION: ALICE JEAN, ANSE ROYALE



STANDARD - PUBLIC HEALTH: PERUSHKA BARALLON, GRAND ANSE MAHE



STANDARD - SAFETY: MAUREEN ESTHER, LES MAMELLES



STANDARD - EARLY LEARNING: LITA ANTOINE, AU CAP



STANDARD - CHILD PROTECTION: VERONIQUE MATHIOT, MONT BUXTON

KEYNOTE CUTS

Welcome to “Keynote Cuts” where we share the powerful words delivered at the Childminders’ Excellence Award ceremony. We are honoured to feature excerpts from our distinguished speakers: Minister of Education, Dr. Justin Valentin; Chairperson of IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute Governing Board, Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope; and CEO of IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute, Mrs. Shirley Choppy.

“
... While many professions have their days of recognition, IECD believes childminders deserve to celebrate theirs, too. This is a fantastic initiative that I believe will endure.

Every childminder here is a winner, and I hope you all leave today inspired to reach even greater heights in your vital service.

Our hope in government is that childminding continues to be a service defined by safety and child well-being. Simultaneously, we are committed to ensuring it remains an economically sustainable and rewarding sector, attracting more dedicated people to this essential profession.”

DR. JUSTIN VALENTIN
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION



“
This occasion is extra special because it's not just about the Childminders Excellence Awards (which, let's face it, are the Oscars of the childcare world) but the recognition of excellence in child care services. For the first time, we are also commemorating 'Early Childhood Educators Day' celebrated globally in the first week of September.

Home-based child care in Seychelles has a rich history rooted in community and care. From informal neighborhood babysitting support to a well-organised, regulated ecosystem. Indeed, we've come a long way, folks!

And I'd say we've made remarkable progress in record time.

... after a decade of success in caring for the little ones in 0-3, it's only fitting that we recognize the outstanding efforts of our childminders. While not everyone may walk away with a shiny trophy, remember: you are all winners. Choosing to care for children isn't just a job — it's a gift. And your dedication is what makes Seychelles truly special”.

DR. MMANTSETSA MAROPE, CHAIRPERSON OF IECD-UNESCO CAT 2 GOVERNING BOARD
(READ BY MRS. CHOPPY)



MRS. SHIRLEY CHOPPY
CEO OF IECD-UNESCO CAT 2 INSTITUTE

“*This event coincides with Early Childhood Educators’ Day – an increasingly important reminder of how vital these professionals [Childminders] are. It’s a day to applaud their ongoing growth and the profound impact they have on shaping our future, one tiny human at a time and occasionally, a tiny human with a big attitude.*

Historically, recognition of early childhood educators gained momentum in the late 20th century, emphasizing that early learning is the cornerstone of lifelong success. Tonight, Seychelles proudly affirms its commitment to this crucial sector with its first-ever Childminders’ Excellence Award. A giant leap toward quality, accessible care for all our children.”

Special Recital

Mon Lafyerte

Lazournen in konmanse
Partou i trankil
Soley i kares montanny e anons son larive
“Mersi Bondye pour sa nouvo zour”
Dan ou prezans
Tou keksoz i ranpli avek lanmour

Bann pti lavwa i penetre
Enn par enn
Lespri tann e fre
Pare pour aprann e dekouver
Tou mazik
ki egziste dan sa bann liniver

Tre o, leko melodi i rezonnen
“Lalalala”, lanmen i koste
Pour zouir, pour aklamen
I gou, gou, gou
I dou, dou, dou

Get nou pe zwe ansanm
An souriyan, plen avek laganm
Bann pti legren ki pe bourzonnen
Tre byento
Zot a fleri e pran en lot semen

Mon vreman fyer
Ler mon regard zot pe grandi byen
Mersi kreater pour donn mwan sa don presye
Pour tous sa bann pti leker
E atrap sa bann pti lanmen kirye

Mon pou kontinyen pouse pour zot ariv ver lavan
Mon pou kontinyen travay avek devouman
Mon dedye mon leker ek tou mon lafors
Sa i mon rev
Sa i mon komitman!



POEM BY STANNE SAMSON

Long Service Award 5 years



JOVANIE VIDOT - TANY'S CHILDMINDING, GRAND ANSE PRASLIN
(REPRESENTED BY HER SON)



DANIELLA SAVY - DANNIES CHILDMINDING, MONT FLEURI



REHEMA NJEMASE - MEMA, MONT FLEURI



NOELLA RADEGONDE - NOELLA'S CHILDMINDING, UNION VALE



PAMELA COME - PAM'S FLAMINGO CHILDMINDING SERVICE, MONT FLEURI



SUZETTE SINON - SU'S CHILDMINDING SERVICE, ANSE AUX PINS



TARA HETIMIER - MINNIE MOUSE CHILDMINDING, BELONIE



MRS. ELISETTE BIBI - ELI'S DAYCARE, ANSE REUNION, LA DIGUE



LINDY AMADE - LINDY'S CHILDMINDING, BEL AIR

Long Service Award 10 years



MIRENA DIDON - TIYAYA CHILDMINDING SERVICES, ANSE AUX PINS



MAUREEN ESTHER - WATERFALL CHILDMINDING, LES MAMELLES



EMILIE LESPERANCE - FLORIANA'S DAY CARE, BAIE STE ANNE, PRASLIN



ANNE MARIE CHANG PIN TIVE - ANNE MARIE CHILDMINDER CARE, ANSE BOILEAU



SANDRA LESPERANCE - SUNDRA'S CARE, MOULINIER ESTATE, PRASLIN

QUICK BITES



AWARD WINNERS RECEIVE GROUP PRIZE FOR STUDY TOUR & CAPACITY BUILDING ABROAD

As part of their Group Award, the five recipients - Natasha Rose, Natasha Reine, Marie-May Hoareau, Daniella Savy, and Alice Jean -will undertake an international Study Tour and capacity building next year. The programme is aimed to foster professional growth and cross-cultural collaboration. The ultimate goal? To immerse the awardees in global best practices and cutting-edge innovations; empowering them with the tools and inspiration needed to bring fresh, world-class ideas back to our local sector and communities.



'CELEBRATORY EDITION' OF CHILDREN 1ST NEWSMAGAZINE UNVEILED

At the launch of the Institute of Early Childhood Development's (IECD) second annual newsmagazine, Director for Advocacy, Information, and Capacity Building, Ms. Shelda Commettant, heralded the release as a "celebratory edition." The 27-page publication features a collection of insightful articles, field interviews, and inspiring stories that showcase innovative practices and global perspectives in early childhood development.

"More than just storytelling," Commettant stated, "this magazine aims to inspire collaboration, build new alliances, and advocate passionately for increased investment and supportive policies aligned with our vision."

An electronic copy of the news magazine is now available for download on the IECD website under: [Newsletters and Magazines – Institute of Early Childhood Development](#)

BIG REVEAL: 2ND EDITION EXCELLENCE AWARD

The new dual-starred logo was unveiled to mark its second edition. Announced by IECD Director General Ms. Marie-France Barra, the Excellence Award's scope has expanded to honour not only home-based childminders but also the managers in centre-based child care. The IECD has confirmed that the Child Care Excellence Award will now be held every two years, and the date is scheduled for September, 2027.



CHILDMINDERS' EXCELLENCE AWARD 2025

THE MOMENTS CAPTURED















OUR SPONSORS

OUTSTANDING CHILDMINDER AWARD (1)

FOR EXCEPTIONAL OVERALL PERFORMANCE

PRIZES

- **A Tablet and a Pen**
sponsored by the President of the Republic
- **Educational materials worth SCR 15,000**
sponsored by National Early Childhood Care & Education (NECCE) Trust Fund
- **Cash prize of SCR 10,000**
sponsored by Nouvobanq
- **Airline return ticket to Dubai**
sponsored by Mr. Benjamin & Mrs. Shirley Choppy
- **Weekend for two on half board at Acajou Hotel, Praslin**
sponsored by Acajou Hotel.
- **Goodie Bag including Life Insurance Voucher worth SCR 2,000**
sponsored by SACOS
- **Shield, Certificate of Recognition & Flower Arrangement**
sponsored by IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute



PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD (2)

FOR CURRENT OR PAST CHILDMINDERS WHOSE SERVICE HAS BEEN MOST APPRECIATED BY PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

PRIZES

- **Educational materials worth SCR 10,000**
sponsored by National Early Childhood Care & Education (NECCE) Trust Fund
- **Cash prize of SCR 3,000**
sponsored by Britannia Hotel & Restaurant and Palm Holiday Apartment
- **Goodie Bag including Life Insurance Voucher worth SCR 2,000**
sponsored by SACOS
- **Dinner for 2 worth SCR 1,000**
sponsored by Spice Catering
- **Shield, Certificate of Recognition & Flower Arrangement**
sponsored by IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute



INNOVATIVE PRACTICE AWARD (3)

FOR CREATIVE APPROACHES IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PRIZES

- **Educational materials worth SCR 10,000**
sponsored by National Early Childhood Care & Education (NECCE) Trust Fund
- **Cash prize of SCR 3,000**
*sponsored by **Capt. David Savy***
- **Goodie Bag including Life Insurance Voucher worth SCR 2,000**
sponsored by SACOS
- **One three course lunch for 2 persons at TecTec Restaurant inclusive of soft drinks**
sponsored by Anantara Maia Seychelles Villas
- **Shield, Certificate of Recognition & Flower Arrangement**
sponsored by IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute



MOST ENGAGED CHILDMINDER AWARD (4)

FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

PRIZES

- **Educational materials worth SCR 10,000**
sponsored by National Early Childhood Care & Education (NECCE) Trust Fund
- **Cash prize of SCR 3,000**
*sponsored by **Mrs. Jeannine Chung-Faye***
- **Goodie Bag including Life Insurance Voucher worth SCR 2,000**
sponsored by SACOS
- **One Day Pass for 2 Person excluding Alcoholic Beverage**
sponsored by Avani+ Barbarons Seychelles
- **Shield, Certificate of Recognition & Flower Arrangement**
sponsored by IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute



EMERGING TALENT AWARD (5)

FOR NEW CHILDMINDERS DEMONSTRATING PROMISE

PRIZES

- Educational materials worth SCR 10,000
sponsored by National Early Childhood Care & Education (NECCE) Trust Fund
- Cash prize of SCR 3,000
sponsored by Mr. Rajasundaram
- Goodie Bag including Life Insurance Voucher worth SCR 2,000
sponsored by SACOS
- Dinner for 2 inclusive 2 glasses of wine each at Fish Restaurant, Breeze Garden, Grand Anse Praslin,
sponsored by Double Click Group
- Shield, Certificate of Recognition & Flower Arrangement
sponsored by IECD-UNESCO Category 2 Institute



GROUP AWARD

ALL AWARDEES OF THE 5 CATEGORIES WILL PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY TOUR & CAPACITY BUILDING OVERSEAS

SPONSORED BY:



Thank you all for your generous contributions and unwavering support towards the success of the first edition of the Childminders' Excellence Award 2025

1st Floor, Fairview House
Josephine Cafrine Road,
Ile Perseverance, Mahe, Seychelles



@iecdseychelles

+2484286565 www.iecd.gov.sc ceooffice@iecd.gov.sc