

New document to track development of J'can children

ALL children born in Jamaica will, as of September 1 this year, be required to have a Child Health and Development Passport, a new document which will keep comprehensive records on children from birth to age 17 years.

The document, which has been developed with the health ministry, in partnership with the Early Childhood Commission, will replace the conventional immunisation card. "It will also contain other information such as medical history, nutrition guidelines, growth charts and educational and developmental tips for parents, director of Family Health Services in the Ministry of Health, Dr Karen Lewis Bell said in a ministry release. "We developed this document so that we can be better able to track a child's development in a comprehensive way and take corrective action at an early stage as is necessary," said Dr Lewis Bell. The health passport will be officially launched by Health Minister Rudyard Spencer next Wednesday at the St Catherine Health Department in Spanish Town, St Catherine.