

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

(I) ECDA Awards

1. Who can apply for the ECDA Awards?

For individual awards, the nomination is open to all Singapore citizens or permanent residents who are in-service ECDA-approved infant or early years educators/preschool educators/centre leaders and Early Intervention teacher/Learning Support educator, who meet the specific training and experience stipulated in the ECDA Awards nomination forms for the respective Award categories.

Nominees for the 'Promising' award categories are required to have at least 3 years of trained experience. Nominees for the 'Outstanding' award categories are required to have at least 5 years of trained experience.

For centre awards, nominated centres must be a licensed Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) that fulfils the eligibility criteria stipulated in the nomination form.

2. What are the Award categories?

Award Categories			
Individual Awards	Early Childhood Leader Award	Outstanding Early Childhood Leader Award	This Award recognises the achievements of outstanding EC leaders who excel in organisational, curriculum and collaborative leadership. They exemplify quality professional behaviours and practices and strive for excellence through continuing professional development. These leaders are committed to delivering high quality early childhood care and education to young children and their families.
		Promising Early Childhood Leader Award <i>Requires at least 3 years of trained experience</i>	This Award recognises the achievements of promising EC leaders who show potential in organisational, curriculum and collaborative leadership. Their professional behaviours and practice and continuing professional development efforts show promise and the capacity to be nurtured and cultivated. They believe in delivering quality early childhood care and education to young children and their families.
	Early Intervention Professional Award	Outstanding Early Intervention Professional Award	This Award recognises the achievements of outstanding Early Intervention Teachers and Learning Support Educators who are committed to delivering high quality learning

		<i>Requires at least 5 years of trained experience</i>	support and early intervention to benefit children with developmental needs. They exemplify quality professional behaviours and practices and strive for excellence through continuing professional development. They are dedicated to strengthening partnerships with families and the community to make a difference in the lives of children with developmental needs.
		Promising Early Intervention Professional Award <i>Requires at least 3 years of trained experience</i>	This Award recognises the achievements of promising Early Intervention Teachers and Learning Support Educators who show potential in delivering high quality early intervention and learning support to benefit children with developmental needs. Their professional behaviours and continuing professional development efforts show promise and the capacity to be nurtured and cultivated. They believe in making a difference in the lives of children with developmental needs.
	Preschool Educator Award	Outstanding Preschool Educator Award <i>Requires at least 5 years of trained experience</i>	This Award recognises the achievements of outstanding Preschool Educators committed to delivering high quality early childhood care and education for children 6 years of age and below. They strive for excellence in early childhood through continuing professional development to scale up the quality of their curriculum and pedagogical practices. They are dedicated to strengthening partnerships with families and the community as they believe in making a positive difference in the lives of children and their families.
		Promising Preschool Educator Award <i>Requires at least 3 years of trained experience</i>	This Award recognises promising Preschool Educators who show potential in scaling up the quality of their curriculum and pedagogical practices for children 6 years of age and below. They believe in building strong partnerships with families. They are committed to continuing professional development and in delivering quality early childhood care and education to young children and their families.
	Infant or Early Years Educator Award	Outstanding Infant or Early Years Educator Award	This Award recognises the achievements of outstanding Infant or Early Years Educator committed to delivering high quality early childhood care and education for infants, toddlers and children from 2 months to 3 years old. They strive for excellence in early

		<i>Requires at least 5 years of trained experience</i>	childhood through continuing professional development to scale up the quality of their curriculum and pedagogical practices. They are dedicated to strengthening partnerships as they believe in making a positive difference in the lives of children and their families.
		Promising Infant or Early Years Educator Award <i>Requires at least 3 years of trained experience</i>	This Award recognises promising Infant or Early Years Educators who show potential in scaling up the quality of their curriculum and pedagogical practices for infants, toddlers and children from 2 months to 3 years old. They believe in building strong partnerships with families. They are committed to continuing professional development and in delivering quality early childhood care and education to young children and their families.
Centre Awards	Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning Award		This Award recognises Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDCs) which have excellent programmes, processes and learning environments that drive outstanding teaching and learning practices in the centre. These practices support and sustain young children's learning, development and well-being. These are centres committed to delivering high quality early childhood care and education that benefits young children and their families.
	Early Childhood Innovation Award		This Award recognises Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDCs) which have nurtured a culture of innovation and implemented innovative practices to improve existing programmes, curriculum and pedagogical practices, processes or services. These centres are committed to delivering high quality experiences for young children, early childhood professionals and their families.

ECDA may, on a case-by-case basis, consider good candidates for a commendation award.

3. What is the commendation award?

ECDA may give out the commendation award to acknowledge deserving infant/early years educators and preschool educators who are very close to the outstanding level of professional excellence.

4. What would the ECDA Award winners receive?

Leader/Early Intervention Professional/Preschool Educator/Infant or Early Years Educator/Centre Awards

Outstanding individual winners will each receive \$2,000 for professional development, \$500 cash, a trophy and a certificate; **Promising Individual** winners will each receive \$500 for professional development, \$300 cash, a trophy and a certificate.

For **Outstanding Centre** Award, winning centres will each receive \$3,000 for professional development, \$2,000 for teaching and learning resources, a trophy and a certificate.

Commendation winners of the Outstanding Individual award categories will each receive \$500 for professional development, \$300 cash, a plaque and a certificate.

Commendation winners of the Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning award will each receive \$800 for professional development, \$500 for teaching and learning resources, a plaque and a certificate.

Early Childhood Innovation Award

For **Early Childhood Innovation** Award:

- Distinction winners will each receive \$2,000 for professional development, \$1,000 for teaching and learning resources, a trophy and a certificate.
- Merit winners will each receive \$1,000 for professional development, \$500 for teaching and learning resources, a plaque and a certificate.
- Commendation winners will each receive \$800 for professional development, a plaque and a certificate.

5. How to get more information about the 2024 ECDA Awards winners?

The ECDA Awards winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony held during the ECDA Early Childhood Celebrations, on Saturday, 2 November 2024. For more information on the ECDA Awards, please visit www.go.gov.sg/ecda-awards.

(II) SPARK

6. What is SPARK?

The Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK) is a quality assurance framework to help our preschools improve their quality. SPARK aims to recognise and support preschool leaders in their efforts to improve teaching and learning, and administration and management processes to enhance the holistic development and well-being of young children.

It serves as a benchmark for preschools to measure their quality and establish for themselves the extent of their achievement.

SPARK has been implemented since January 2011. Childcare centres and kindergartens may apply for SPARK Assessment via four application windows in a year.

7. What is the SPARK (Commendation)?

Introduced in 2015, SPARK Certification (Commendation) is awarded to centres with strong processes in Teaching and Learning, as well as Curriculum, Leadership and Pedagogy.

(III) Start Small Dream Big (SSDB)

8. What is 'Start Small Dream Big'?

The 'Start Small Dream Big' (SSDB) movement was initiated by ECDA in 2015 to encourage preschools to create platforms for children to give back to the community. It was first launched as part of SG50 and the 15th anniversary of President's Challenge, as an annual series of fund-raising and volunteer activities. Participating preschools design and implement community service projects for children over a period of six months.

9. What are the objectives of 'Start Small Dream Big'?

The movement aspires to nurture each child holistically, including character building, so they can succeed individually in life and become responsible citizens who care about those around them. Through 'Start Small Dream Big', young children in preschools are encouraged to use their own resources to give back to society, and in the process, instil the spirit of giving and good values such as care for others, kindness, humility and compassion.

10. How many pre-schools and children have participated in SSDB over the years?

Year	No. of preschools participating	No. of children participating	No. of community hours	Amount of funds raised
2015	150	8,000	100,000	\$100,000
2016	300	20,000	500,000	\$150,000
2017	550	36,000	1 million	\$200,000
2018	670	39,000	1.2 million	\$250,000
2019	820	49,000	1.4 million	\$300,000
2020	950	53,000	1.5 million	\$80,000
2021	1,050	71,000	2.1 million	\$200,000
2022	1,090	75,000	2.5 million	\$130,000
2023	1,130	77,000	2.7 million	\$316,000
2024	1,200	80,000	2.8 million	\$350,000