

# Working Together for our Children



In this issue, we delve into the world of digital media and technology. They are both of interest and a concern to parents and educators. They have also transformed the way we live, work and play.

As many of us know, technology is neither good nor bad. Used appropriately, they can support and enrich our children's learning. The key word is "appropriate". In this issue of *Beanstalk*, you can hear from parents, early childhood educators and other experts on the realities of digital media and technology and the practicalities of navigating this space.

At the same time, traditional modes of learning, such as hands-on experiences and play, are still important. Neuroscience tells us that responsive and warm social interactions — with caregivers, teachers and others — are necessary for the development of a child's brain. This issue therefore also profiles our winners of the 2015 ECDA Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Development, who shared ideas on how you can create a rich learning environment for your children.

In 2016, ECDA will continue with efforts to improve the accessibility, affordability and quality of early childhood care and education in Singapore. To complement the Anchor Operator Scheme (AOP), we kick-started the Partner Operator Scheme (POP) on 1 January, which will benefit the parents and teachers of 169 child care centres.



Mr Leong addressing the ECDA Fellows during the mid-point review session in November 2015.

We also plan to expand our partnerships with parents, centres and teachers to ensure the best possible outcome for our children. Not just in learning, but also in values. As Aristotle, a Greek philosopher and scientist, once said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

On this note, I wish one and all an exciting and fulfilling year ahead as we work together to give every child a good start!

MR EUGENE LEONG  
Chief Executive Officer  
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)



## ON THE COVER

Clockwise from left:  
Dayze Ng En Yu, Dhanalatchmi D/O Vairappan, Saanthiyah Vairappan, Zefiena Eliora Binte Zaihan, Ethan Marc Cornelius, Sophie Chong Si En, Chong Wee Jin

Art Direction Don Lee & Carol Chan  
Photography Mark Lee  
Styling Sharon Tan, assisted by Naomi Tham

Grooming Brenda Lye & Yeo Hui Mei Mable



Early Childhood  
Development Agency

EDITORIAL PANEL  
Angela Anthony  
Anthea Lin  
Daphne Lim  
Jennifer Law

## EDITORIAL CONSULTANT



Senior Editor Agatha Koh Brazil  
Assistant Editor Chia Ee Khim  
Senior Writers Wanda Tan, Fairroza Mansor  
Art Director Don Lee  
Senior Designer Carol Chan  
Senior Business Relationship Manager Michele Kho  
Contributors Ealbert Ho, Kelvin Chia, Mark Lee, Ashutosh Ravikrishnan

*Beanstalk* is a quarterly publication by the Early Childhood Development Agency and is published by Mediacorp Pte Ltd. Copyright is held by the publishers. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited. Printed by KHL Printing Co Pte Ltd.