

# SkillsFuture SUPPORT for Future Leaders

**U**NDER THE NATIONAL SkillsFuture movement, all Singaporeans have more opportunities to deepen their skills and develop professionally to maximise their full potential. One such opportunity is the SkillsFuture Study Award for EC Sector which is opened to successful candidates of the Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood Leadership (ADECL). Recipients of the Study Award will receive a bond-free award of \$5,000 to defray any out-of-pocket expenses associated with ADECL.

The ADECL starts in April 2016 with its first intake of experienced educators. Among the inaugural batch, some will be recipients of the SkillsFuture Study Award for EC Sector. Ms Nur Suzilawati Binte Sahak, a Senior Teacher at Oxford Educare, is one of the recipients.

## A Financial Boost

Ms Suzilawati has been on a constant quest to upgrade her skills since joining the EC sector 15 years ago. "I am a mother of three young children aged 15 months to five years. But I believe that having a family should not stop me from being a lifelong learner and furthering my studies," says the 32 year-old.

"The course will enable me to design, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a differentiated curriculum to suit the diverse learning needs, abilities and interests of the children whom I work with," she says. "The award will encourage educators to advance their skills and stay in the EC sector. I intend to use part of it to buy resources to further understand the concept of a differentiated curriculum and how it looks like in practice. Ultimately, I hope to make a valuable contribution to my centre and to the EC sector." ♥

For more information, please visit [www.skillsfuture.sg/studyawards/early-childhood](http://www.skillsfuture.sg/studyawards/early-childhood)

ECDA's new SkillsFuture Study Award for Early Childhood (EC) Sector sends a strong signal of support for Senior Teachers aspiring to become Centre Leaders.

## About the ADECL

### OBJECTIVE

To prepare senior EC educators for the role of centre leadership. The ADECL replaces the Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education - Leadership (DECCE-L)

### OFFERED AT

- Ngee Ann Polytechnic
- Temasek Polytechnic

### DURATION

850 hours, to be completed in 1.5 to 3 years on a part-time basis

### CONSISTS OF

Three post-diploma certificates, with an emphasis on instructional leadership and management skills

## About the SkillsFuture Study Award for the EC Sector



### SUPPORTS

deepening of EC Educators' skills and prepares them to take on larger roles



### DEVELOPS

EC Educators through structured competency-based career progression pathways



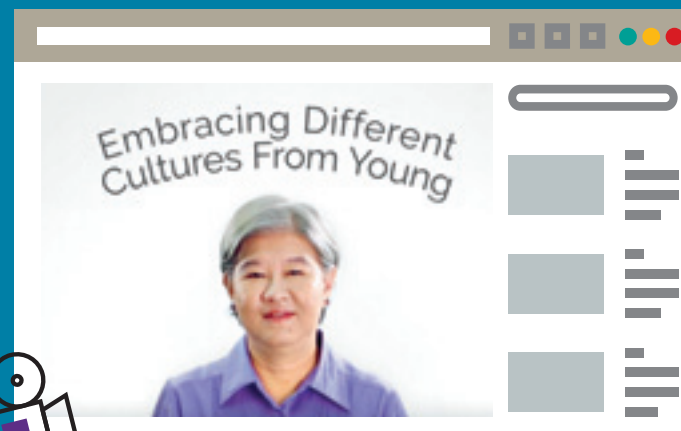
### RECOGNISES

EC Educators for having the right skills and passion for their work with young children

## ECDA FELLOWS

# Walk the TALK

Educators and parents can now glean valuable insights from the ECDA Fellows, with a simple click of the mouse.



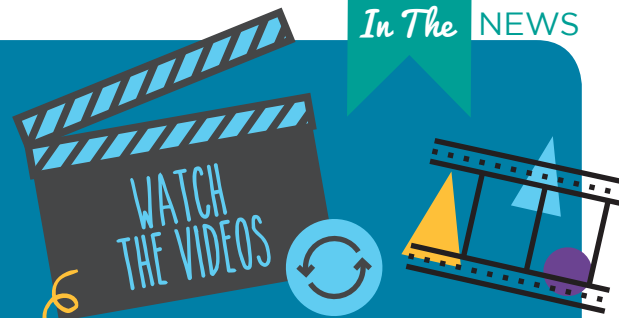
## GETTING VALUABLE AND PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

to support the holistic development of children in their early formative years is now at your fingertips. Especially those from our local early childhood exemplary leaders – the ECDA Fellows. The ECDA Fellows Talk Series comprises a series of short video clips featuring a range of topics, from Arts, Science and Culture, Character Building, Leadership and Mentoring, to Pedagogy and Working with Hearts.

For example, in her video, ECDA Fellow Ms Tan Beng Luan, Founder and Principal of Creative O Preschoolers' Bay, offers several tips on how teachers can encourage

young children to embrace different cultures. "Children are like sponges. They take in information as it is because they have not formed prejudices about the world yet. This is the perfect time to expose them to other cultures," she says. "With appropriate cultural education, children learn to respect, appreciate and be sensitive to everyone around them."

Three other ECDA Fellows expand on Values and Character Building in their respective clips. Mrs Ang-Oh Chui Hwa, Principal of Far Eastern Kindergarten, highlights the role of pre-schools and families in moulding children's character. Ms Alicia Lim, Executive Principal of PCF Sparkletots, advocates storytelling as a good way to inculcate



- \* Learning Through Exciting Experiences  
Mrs Elsie Tan-Chua
- \* Creativity Gives Children a Voice  
Ms Dianne Swee-Seet
- \* Embracing Different Cultures from Young  
Ms Tan Beng Luan
- \* Building Character within a Mouldable Heart  
Mrs Ang-Oh Chui Hwa
- \* Empowering Independent Problem Solvers  
Ms Ava Wang
- \* Teaching Values through Storytelling  
Ms Alicia Lim
- \* Retaining Talent in Early Childhood  
Dr May See
- \* Building Confidence through Mentoring  
Ms Rebecca Han
- \* The Leadership Journey  
Dr Jacqueline Chung
- \* Heart Work - Seeing Each Child's Individual Needs  
Ms Shirley Tan
- \* A Partnership between Educators and Families  
Ms Christine Soo
- \* 3Rs in the Early Years  
Ms N. Thamarai
- \* My Space - Innovation in Preschools  
Ms N. Pushpavalli
- \* Focusing on a Child's Strengths through Learning Stories  
Dr Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte

## A Two-Way Dialogue

On 22 March 2016, some 75 centre principals attended a dialogue session with ECDA Fellows and EC Leaders. The session was illuminating for the participants as they heard first-hand from leaders about their centres' practices and brainstormed possible improvements. The dialogue also built on the content from the ECDA Fellows Talk Series. The intention is to help forge closer ties and build a fraternity of leaders to drive quality and support the growth of the EC profession.

values such as forgiveness in children. Ms Ava Wang, Curriculum Specialist, MY World Preschool, talks about how educators can empower children to be independent problem solvers rather than problem presenters. ♥

Check out the complete ECDA Fellows Talk Series playlist at ECDA YouTube Page <http://bit.ly/1QgpdwP>