

# Placing Character at the Heart of the Early Years

**M**ahatma Gandhi once said, "Your beliefs become your thoughts. Your thoughts become your words. Your words become your actions. Your actions become your habits. Your habits become your values. Your values become your destiny."

Parents, early childhood educators and caregivers play important roles in modelling and nurturing values in young children. According to Erik Erikson, a renowned psychologist, these are the people who can help young children resolve any issue, conflict or dilemma they encounter — through positive guidance, scaffolding, encouragement and affirmation. This resolution paves the way for children to develop values like hope, courage, determination and a sense of purpose — values which predict academic and life success in their later years.

In this issue, we ask a parent, grandparent and early childhood educators to share their perspectives on instilling values and character development in their children and grandchildren. We will also share about the support and resources available from community partners like the Health Promotion Board, the National Library Board and the Singapore Kindness Movement.



Mr Leong (middle) with the ECDA Fellows after the presentation of Inquiry Based Action Plans, which are self-initiated projects with the view to uplift the quality of the sector.

In addition, we have just launched the ECDA Fellows Talk series on social media. Our ECDA Fellows, with years of experience and knowledge in the early childhood field, will share useful strategies and tips to support and guide your children in their holistic development. View the clips on respect, character development and forgiveness at <http://bit.ly/1QgpdwP>. And while you are at your digital device, please visit and like us at [www.facebook.com/beanstalksingapore](http://www.facebook.com/beanstalksingapore) to connect with like-minded people, share parenting tips and get updates

on early childhood development.

*Beanstalk* magazine aims to build a more connected and engaged network of parents and educators to support our young children's development. Inculcating values and good habits need to start in the early years. Let us journey together to nurture our children into fine men and women.

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



## ON THE COVER

Clockwise from left:  
Irene Tan, Eloise Violet McClucas,  
Zhou Yuhua, Ernan Quek Yan Kai,  
Zakeera Binte Abu Bakar,  
Ng Chong Yong, Jai Bhargava

Art Direction Don Lee & Carol Chan  
Photography Hong Chee Yan  
Styling Sharon Tan,  
assisted by Jessica Khor  
Grooming Manisa Tan & Jane Lau



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Daphne Lim  
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Contributors Hong Chee Yan, Tan Kay Hian

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