



My three children were taught by Ms Violet at Grace House Kindergarten. The kids always remembered what she said or taught, and would share this with us. She also constantly encouraged them, telling how good they can be — which helped them to be more confident in their primary school journey. We wish Ms Violet a very Happy Teacher's Day.

Ms Chang Chiou Fong, mother of Philson Sow, Pilston Sow and Philene Sow, who graduated from Grace House Kindergarten in 2012, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

I miss all my teachers, especially Ms Fish. When I was new in class, I was scared to speak up, but she always encouraged me. She always asked us to work together because we are stronger when we are together! I'm now in Term 2 of P1 and can do things independently. I'm not shy anymore. To Ms Fish and all my teachers at Hampton, I miss you all very much and love you to the moon and back.

Ethan Aditya D'Souza, 7, formerly from Hampton Pre-School (Bishan)



# SAY IT WITH HEART

NOTES OF APPRECIATION FROM CHILDREN, PARENTS AND A PRINCIPAL TO THEIR TEACHERS.

Teacher Cheng takes care of me when mommy and daddy are not around. She bathes me, teaches me and hugs me when I am sad. I love it when she plays nice music on the piano. She is very nice and I wish her a very Happy Teacher's Day!

Jerome Ang Jia Chen, 5, Grow & Glow @ Pasir Ris 21/K1



My heartfelt Teacher's Day wishes to Teacher Cai. Thank you for taking care of Ziya. When she was ill, you looked after her, sponged her and gave her medication. As a mother, I truly appreciate your help and know that my daughter is in good hands.

Ms Raja Nurzalifa, mother of 1-year-old Ziyanita Meideena, who attends NurtureStars Preschool @ SAFRA Toa Payoh

Ms Hannah, thank you for your patience in imparting knowledge to my child and making sure he is acquiring it. You have never stopped trying to guide my son on his path of being a learner.

Mr Kishore Kumar, father of 5-year-old Reyansh Kishore, who attends The Capstone Kindergarten



Dear Teacher Wei Chan, You have truly been a blessing to our Little Footprints family. I appreciate your remarkable team spirit, dedication and, most importantly, love. It takes a big heart to help shape little minds, and you have shown it through your patience, communication and connection with each child who walks through our door. May you continue to inspire others through your strength in overcoming challenges and openness to learn.

Ms Rose Liew, Principal, Little Footprints Preschool (Tung Po)



# PRAISE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

BESIDES A FUN AND CREATIVE CURRICULUM, EDUCATORS AT PPIS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE – BUKIT BATOK NURTURE POSITIVE LEARNING DISPOSITIONS THROUGH WARM RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CHILDREN.



Engaging children with activities that incorporate the six PRAISE learning dispositions

Strengthening learning dispositions helps children in their life-long learning journey. Building strong foundations in their early years can help them grow into confident, independent and motivated individuals.

At SPARK-certified Partner Operator (POP) child care centre, PPIS Child Development Centre – Bukit Batok, educators intentionally plan lessons and activities that incorporate the six learning dispositions — Perseverance, Reflectiveness, Appreciation, Inventiveness, Sense of Wonder and Curiosity, and Engagement (PRAISE) — from the Nurturing Early Learners Guide.

## Planned and Unplanned

The centre's lesson plans are designed based on topics and objectives that are developmentally appropriate for the children. "Our teachers ensure that the objectives are achievable and stretch the children's learning," says Senior Principal, Ms Zulaihabe Talip, 49.

An example of an activity that illustrates PRAISE in action was a project on coconuts:

- ▶ Children **reflect** on why a coconut can float.
- ▶ They **persevere** in the task of removing the coconut's husk.
- ▶ They **appreciate** each other's experience and ideas through the sharing.

- ▶ They are **inventive** in answering questions relating to the coconut's ability to sink and float, as well as in creating recipes.
- ▶ They display a **sense of wonder and curiosity** in wanting to further understand the coconut's attributes and properties.
- ▶ They are **engaged** throughout, as they focus on and participate in the different activities.

Learning about PRAISE becomes more effective when the learning goes beyond the classrooms. "We believe children are better able to embrace the positive learning dispositions through field trips, holiday projects and also through impromptu activities," adds Ms Talip.

Ms Asliana, 39, a K1 Teacher, says, "At the beginning of the pre-school term, the children had the tendency to say 'I don't know' and 'I cannot do'." Ms Asliana adopted a role-modelling and peer-learning approach for children to develop more confidence and perseverance in the things they do. Instead of helping the children perform the tasks, she guides the children to do it themselves or with their peers.

Teachers are also learning in the process, says Ms Asliana, and should not be afraid of making mistakes and acknowledging them in front of the children. The children also pick up

positive dispositions from the adults around them. After three months, the change in the children was remarkable. Half her class were saying, "I can try."

## Active Questioning

Educators can engage children in dynamic conversations — respond enthusiastically to their questions, show interest in their ideas and give positive feedback. "Through these affirmative actions, children are more likely to be receptive towards the positive learning dispositions," says Ms Talip. The questions also help children internalise and make sense of PRAISE. ♥

## BOND AND LEARN: TRY THIS!

Explore these activities and infuse PRAISE through these questions:

- ▶ **Experiment with sounds by creating shakers filled with different materials.** Ask: What kind of sounds does this shaker make? What other items can we use to create different sounds? (Sense of wonder and curiosity/Inventiveness)
- ▶ **Read a story about a child who worked hard or who tried to achieve a goal despite facing challenges.** Ask: What can you learn about the child? Did he give up when it was difficult? Why? What can we do the next time we feel like giving up? (Reflectiveness/Perseverance)
- ▶ **Create a self-portrait while looking at the mirror.** Ask: What makes you special? What makes you different from your sister or your friend? (Appreciation)

The Singapore Pre-school Accreditation Framework (SPARK) aims to help pre-schools raise their quality by serving as a guide and providing quality benchmarks. It also provides recognition and support for pre-school leaders in their efforts to improve teaching and learning, as well as administration and management processes. For more information on SPARK, visit [www.ecda.gov.sg/SPARKInfo](http://www.ecda.gov.sg/SPARKInfo).