

TRANSFORMING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SECTOR



social-emotional and cognitive domains. Research tells us that there are long-term benefits to our children's learning and development when we consciously facilitate their thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills. Children become more motivated and have higher self-esteem and confidence. They are also more equipped to handle challenges and experience success in their school years and beyond.

In this issue, we discuss the crucial role educators and parents play in laying the foundations for critical thinking from young, as well as how we can create opportunities for our children to reflect, analyse, reason and ask the right questions. We encourage our educators to strengthen their own critical-thinking competencies through activities such as practitioner inquiry projects, and to re-examine and value-add to their pedagogical practices. These can re-ignite their passion and purpose, and, in turn, benefit our young children.

All of us are trustees of our children's early years. We can work together to boost our children's critical-thinking ability, which is an essential life skill. As aptly put by American anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

Have a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2018!

MR EUGENE LEONG

Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)

Greetings to all early childhood (EC) professionals, parents and partners.

For the EC sector, 2018 will be a year of transformation. The sector can look forward to new and exciting opportunities to further improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of pre-school services. The government is committed to build on past achievements and do more to uplift the EC sector and give our children a good start. These include providing more pre-school places, setting up the National Institute for Early Childhood Development (NIEC), raising the professional quality and standing of EC teachers and carers, as well as implementing the Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC) Act.

The early years are important to the holistic development of our children in the physical, language,



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From left Anisah Sultan Ali, Sean Tan, Qistina Awfiah, Kaylee Khor, Jaycob Sivabalan, Brendan Khor

Art Direction Samuel Ng
Photography Kelvin Chia
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