

FIVE THINGS TEACHERS WANT PARENTS TO KNOW

TEACHERS DEBUNK MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

1 "MY CHILD IS TOO YOUNG TO TRY."

Children learn best by doing and interacting with people, objects and materials. Involving your child in different activities is a good way to encourage this. Your child may not be able to help you prepare an omelette, but they can definitely help with cracking or beating the eggs! Just remember: big things start from all things little. Believe in your child and they will believe in themselves too.



Jane Mayriel Singh, Senior Teacher, Little Skool-House International (By-the-Vista), 2017 ECDA Award Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher

2 "HOW DOES MY CHILD COMPARE TO HIS CLASSMATES?"

Every child is a unique individual. They have different needs, characteristics, interests and strengths, and develop at their own pace. Children need to feel accepted, valued and supported for them to thrive in life. Embrace their individuality and provide opportunities to develop their strengths to the fullest potential. Affirm their efforts and encourage them to persevere through the challenges and failures that they will face in life.

Gillian Neo, Executive Principal, My First Skool at 51 Fernvale Link, 2017 ECDA Award Outstanding Early Childhood Leader



3 "LET MY CHILD CRY. HE'LL STOP WHEN HE IS TIRED."

We need to recognise that there is a reason for your child's emotional outbursts. Be patient and acknowledge his emotion, and gently probe as to what is upsetting him. We can then apply the right strategy and guide the child positively. Parents can establish a secure bond by being attentive to their children's needs. When we verbalise children's needs for them to hear, they will feel that they matter. This boosts their self-esteem. Developing a secure attachment for children is important for them to be successful and confident in their early years and beyond.

Amanda Poh, Vice Principal, St James' Church Kindergarten (Gilstead), 2016 ECDA Award Outstanding Early Childhood Educator



4 "PLAY IS A WASTE OF TIME."

Every play moment is a mini learning journey. As the key decision makers during play, children develop critical skills such as communication, thinking and collaboration. They become expressive and play without inhibitions, and respond to situations spontaneously — that's why play helps develop children's creativity and imagination. Through play, children deepen their self-awareness and learn about themselves in relation to other people and the environment around them.



Sophia Koh, Curriculum Specialist, New Life Community Services, 2016 ECDA Award Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher

5 "I SHOULD DISAPPEAR BEFORE MY CRYING CHILD SEES ME."

To minimise separation anxiety, prepare your child by talking about what he can expect, and reading books about preschool. Let your child know that you are leaving and will return to pick him up after preschool. Develop a routine such as a special wave or kiss when you say goodbye. Over time, your child will develop trust and become more secure. For a start, you can leave your child with his teacher for shorter periods before gradually increasing the duration. Remember, it takes time for a young child to adapt and adjust to new places, unfamiliar faces and situations.

Nur Farhana Binte Abdul Razak, Senior Infant Educator, E-Bridge Pre-School Pte Ltd (Bukit Batok), 2017 ECDA Award Outstanding Early Childhood Educator

