

TAKE LEARNING OUTDOORS



• Start Small Dream Big (SSDB) Finale: We applauded the efforts of 49,000 children from over 820 preschools for their contributions under the President's Challenge SSDB movement. They spent 1.4 million hours on community service projects for charity.

This year's conference was organised with the theme of outdoor learning. Research shows that outdoor learning stimulates the brain, improves children's ability to focus and learn, and allows our children to learn with multiple senses.

Playgrounds, parks, gardens, museums and even one's immediate neighbourhood provide our children with a rich repertoire of learning opportunities. Pick up practical tips to support your children in outdoor learning by downloading the digital copy of the outdoor learning kit "Creative Conversations: The Scent of Spices (Parents' Edition)" at go.gov.sg/theScentofspices. Educators can check out the "Outdoor Learning: A National Guide for Early Childhood Educators" and go to the repository of Outdoor Learning Experiences at bit.ly/Outdoor-learning to glean ideas of learning experiences from others.

Outdoor learning is beneficial, but not without risks. While we want to keep our children safe, we also need to teach them how to assess consequences and learn to manage risks so as to handle future challenges as adults. As novelist Roald Dahl aptly reminds us, "...the more risks you allow children to take, the better they learn to take care of themselves."

Glad to join ECDA and to be part of this vibrant and dynamic early childhood sector. As a mother of two, whose second child recently turned 18 months old, this sector is naturally close to my heart.

I was excited to have celebrated with all the professionals in the sector at my first Early Childhood Conference (ECC) this year. We thank the 1,500 conference participants, over 10,000 exhibition visitors, our speakers and all our partners for making this sector event a huge success.

In conjunction with the ECC, three signature sector events were held.

• Awards ceremony: We presented 22 awards to leaders, educators and centres for their exemplary and innovative teaching and learning practices. We hope that the winners will continue to strive towards professional excellence and share their good practices with the fraternity.

• SPARK certification presentation ceremony: 112 preschools received their SPARK certification, bringing the total number of SPARK-certified centres to more than half of the preschools in Singapore.

Jamie Ang

MS JAMIE ANG
Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)



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APEX 2019
AWARDS FOR PUBLICATION EXCELLENCE
Beanstalk clinched the APEX 2019 Award of Excellence in the One of a Kind Publication (Education & Training) Category!



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