

BIGGER HEARTS, STRONGER MINDS



Professional Development Roadmap is also in the works to help guide educators in their training and development decisions. Preschools can tap on the Outdoor Learning Training Programme to help educators strengthen their abilities in outdoor learning. We are also working with HPB to improve workplace wellbeing for educators. Supporting the development and wellbeing of educators ultimately also benefits children in preschools. Families and children can also look forward to greater inclusivity in preschools.

A record number of 53,000 children from over 950 preschools took part in the 6th edition of the 'Start Small Dream Big' (SSDB) movement. They collectively contributed 1.5 million community service hours, with the support of preschool teachers, parents and community partners. Thanks to all of you for supporting our children in their good deeds. We hope more preschools will join the SSDB movement in 2021.

As Aristotle puts it, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Children's social-emotional competence is an essential life skill and just as important as their cognitive and language skills. Let's work together to create supportive environments to strengthen our children's holistic development.

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

The Early Childhood (EC) Conference 2020 was held virtually for the first time this year. It saw a strong turnout of about 7,000 EC educators, many times more than the usual 1,500 in past physical conferences. I was glad to see so many educators online and this shows how challenges can sometimes turn into opportunities.

The theme of this year's conference, "Bigger Hearts, Stronger Minds", is both timely and significant, given the current COVID-19 situation confronting everyone. We hope that you have picked up practical tips from our keynote speakers to support children in their social-emotional development, and also for your own wellbeing.

Besides looking at social-emotional wellbeing, the EC Conference 2020 set out how educators can look forward to more opportunities to deepen their skills and in career progression. We are refreshing the Skills Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education for better professional development and career opportunities. A Continuing



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ON THE COVER

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

Some photos in this issue were taken before the Circuit Breaker period, and feature children/adults without masks on.