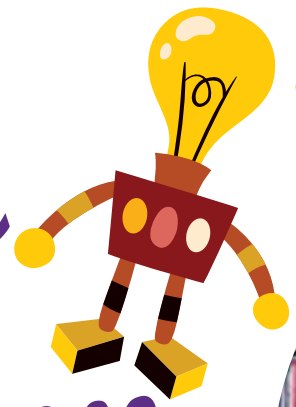# Playing to learn

At KidsSTOP, children can continue to learn beyond their classroom, and have fun at the same time!

Remember when science was fun? No? Well, we don't blame you — there isn't a whole lot to enjoy when you are stuck behind textbooks! But with the Science Centre Singapore (SCS)'s new addition, it won't be the case for your young ones. Called KidsSTOP, it is Singapore's first science centre for children aged 18 months to eight years old.

The 3,000sqm facility is housed within the SCS's Omni-Theatre and is slated to open on 6 June 2014. Its aim is to make science a rich and experiential lesson for very young children, with early childhood professionals and educators present to facilitate learning experiences. These, in turn, are aligned with the Ministry of Education's emphasis on nurturing early learners. The different zones in KidsSTOP are built around four themes — **Imagine**, **Experience**, **Discover** and **Dream**.

Imagine

Here, the emphasis is on honing creative and communication skills through role-play set in different thematic environments. At The Supermarket and Café Zone, for example, children get to be customers, cashiers, café chefs or street vendors. They will learn how some food items are made, as well as the importance of a balanced meal and good nutrition. Over at the Kiddie Theatre, your budding Steven Spielberg can make his own mini-movie using the video equipment, and with myriad costumes and props available.

Experience

Under this theme, children are given the opportunity to experience the world around them through hands-on activities. Children can observe at close range living things they have read about such as mice, chicks and frogs, certain insects and plants. To learn more about nature and the world around them, they can navigate the large a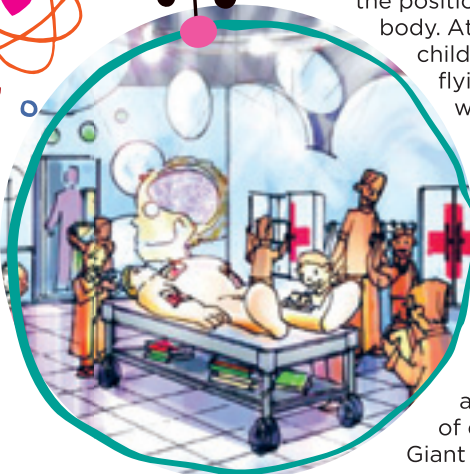nd winding passageway that links the different zones in KidsSTOP. Along this route are displays which explain — among many others — phenomena like why some countries have four seasons and how to tell different animal paw prints apart.

Discover

Here, various Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics principles are explained with examples drawn from the human body, robotics, sound and music as well as flight science. These are portrayed through interactive exhibits like the Operation Game, a model of the human body with removable body parts that teaches a better understanding of the position of various key organs in the body. At the Flight and Space Zone, children can assemble their own flying machines and test them in wind tunnels.

Dream

Here, surreal and unusually-shaped displays dominate. The centrepiece is The Big Dream Climber, a 9m-high structure that feature hanging elements of various shapes and sizes such as leaves, doors and gears that kids can scale and explore. And adding a touch of excitement right next to it is the Giant J, a 7m-long slide! ❤

PHOTOS COURTESY OF **SINGAPORE DISCOVERY CENTER**

ALL GO FOR KIDSSTOP

KidsSTOP has received sponsorships totalling $3.5 million. These were presented to the SCS on 18 February 2014, and were from the Building and Construction Authority, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Tote Board and LEGO Education. "We are glad to have these partners on board to support us in our journey to create this one-of-a-kind edutainment centre and family destination," said Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive of the SCS. "Their support will go a long way in sparking young children's imagination, curiosity and interest in science."

MEMBERS ONLY

Your first trip to KidsSTOP with your kids won't be the last, especially with all there is to see and do there. So why not sign up for a membership to enjoy great discounts on future entry, as well as other perks?

Membership is **$30 per year**, which includes one-time free admission for one child and one adult. However, early birds who sign up before 31 May 2014 pay $30 for a two-year membership!

As a member, you'll receive benefits like:
• Discounts at the gift shop and tenant outlets
• A merchant discount booklet
• 20 per cent off the Science Centre Singapore admission rate
For more information, visit **www.kidsstop.edu.sg**