

# CELEBRATING TEACHERS AND CHILDREN



When children returned to their preschools in the second half of 2020, they impressed on several counts. First, how much our curious preschoolers learnt and understood about the virus. Second, how capable they were in complying with the safe management measures. Many young children, including my two-year-old, now understand the measures so well that they are the ones reminding the rest of the family to wear their masks! Third, how many of them found creative ways to adhere to the measures to suit their unique personalities.

For me, this has been an important reminder of how our children are truly curious, capable and unique learners. It's important for us to recognise this as we nurture them both in preschool and at home. How we think of our children, in terms of their capabilities, needs and interests, influences our interactions with them and impacts their development and wellbeing.

Our role as adults is to uncover and appreciate the strengths of each child and bring out their potential. As American poet and author Robert John Meehan put it, "Each child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding."

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

**H**appy New Year, everyone! 2020 was an unprecedented year. I'm heartened that the early childhood fraternity rallied together to help keep our children safe and learning. In 2021, let's continue to work together to support our preschoolers in their development.

In the last quarter of 2020, we celebrated our educators and preschools in three ceremonies. At the ECDA Scholarships and Training Awards Ceremony, we presented over 400 Training Awards, 13 Commendation Awards and nine Scholarships. At the ECDA Awards Ceremony, we honoured 25 award winners and 11 finalists for their professional excellence. At the SPARK Certification Ceremony, 106 preschools received their certification, bringing the total number of SPARK-certified preschools to over half of the preschools in Singapore. Congratulations to all of them!



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