



TOP NOTCH

TWENTY-THREE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS, EARLY INTERVENTION PROFESSIONALS AND CENTRES WERE HONOURED AT THE NINTH ECDA AWARDS.

In his congratulatory note at the virtual ECDA Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Development on 27 November 2021, Minister for Social and Family Development Masagos Zulkifli expressed his appreciation to the early childhood (EC) community: "I thank all EC educators and early intervention (EI) professionals for your commitment in nurturing our children, regardless of their background and ability. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, you have worked hard to enable our children to continue learning in a safe environment. You make our mission to give every Singaporean child the best possible start in life a reality."

PLAUDITS FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

A new award category was introduced to recognise the crucial role that learning support educators (LSEs) and EI professionals play in supporting children with developmental needs. The award is important and timely, noted one of the current judges, Ms Christina Van Huizen.

Sharing some strategies that had made an impression on her,

Ms Van Huizen observed that the award recipients were "reflective" and "intentional" in selecting interventions and learning approaches for each child. She added, "They showed a good understanding of each child's developmental needs and learning styles, and used relevant and appropriate teaching aids and materials."

BOOSTING INNOVATION

ECDA will also open the Early Childhood Innovation Award to all preschools from 2022, and not limit it to only ECDA-funded Innovation Grant and Practitioner Inquiry

projects. Mr Adrian Lim, a veteran judge from 2016 to 2019, had this advice: "Stay curious about new possibilities, act to explore them rather than wait to do extensive study or for the right time, and be nimble to change course, if necessary."

Mr Masagos expressed his hope that opening up the eligibility for this award will encourage more centres to adopt a culture of innovation. "Being an educator requires a lot of preparation, creativity and thoughtful planning to design meaningful and creative learning experiences for our children. We want to keep this innovative spirit alive," he said.



JUDGES' INSIGHTS

“EI professionals should work together with EC educators and other professionals to create mutual goals for children. This can offer ample opportunities to work outside our comfort zone and may require us to learn new ways of working with other professionals. We need to embrace a growth mindset and a change in our 'lenses' to see the whole child.”

MS CHRISTINA VAN HUIZEN.
Social Service Fellow & Senior Assistant Director, Community Psychology Hub



“Innovation is not the same as technology. Innovation includes finding better ways to do something and new ways of looking at problems. Innovation in education should focus on making positive changes that will directly benefit your learning corner, the classroom, the preschool, or your organisation's training and learning practices. No innovation is too small. Be bold in your ideas.”

MR ADRIAN LIM, formerly Director, Digital Literacy and Participation Division, Infocomm Media Development Authority



The winners list

OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCARER AWARD

- **Nur'Aqilah Binte Abdul Malek**
The Little Skool-House International Pte Ltd (On-The-Green)
- **Su Lina**
PCF Sparkletots @ Bedok Reservoir-Punggol Blk 470C

OUTSTANDING EARLY INTERVENTION PROFESSIONAL AWARD

- **A. Susila**
PCS Jurong West Centre

OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER AWARD

- **Lee Chin Yen**
Agape Little Uni @ Jurong West Pte Ltd
- **Tan Pei Ling Pearlyn**
NTUC First Campus' My First Skool at 49 Rivervale Crescent

OUTSTANDING CENTRE FOR TEACHING & LEARNING AWARD

- **Between Two Trees**

COMMENDATION AWARDS

- **Jiang Qi**
E-Bridge Pre-School (Bukit Panjang)
- **Chew Bishan Ivy**
Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities Ltd (THK EIPIC Centre @ AMK)
- **Wong Jia Min**
Fei Yue Community Services
- **Noriyaton Binte Mohd Yunus**
PCF Sparkletots @ Pasir Ris West Blk 517
- **Theresa Maria Enriquez**
Little Seeds Preschool (Ascension)
- **Creative O Preschoolers' Bay**
- **Hampton Pre-School**
Tanjong Pagar

PROMISING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCARER AWARD

- **Sharifah Mastura Binte Syed Daud**
NTUC First Campus' My First Skool at 80 Marine Parade Road
- **Teo Ming Ai**
NTUC First Campus' My First Skool at Blk 997 Buangkok Crescent

PROMISING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER AWARD

- **Krishanthi Vijaya**
Skool4Kidz Preschool @ Sembawang East Crown

PROMISING EARLY INTERVENTION PROFESSIONAL AWARD

- **Kum Hui Ting**
Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore

PROMISING EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER AWARD

- **Sabirah Binte Mohamed Idris**
NTUC First Campus' My First Skool at 80 Marine Parade Road

EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION AWARD (DISTINCTION)

- **NTUC First Campus' My First Skool**
at Blk 140 Serangoon North
Project Title: *Move and Groove*
- **MY World Preschool Ltd (Pasir Ris)**
Project Title: *How Will Technology-Enabled Activities Increase Children's Interest in Learning Chinese Language?*

EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION AWARD (MERIT)

- **Odyssey The Global Preschool @ Still Road**
Project Title: *Mud Cafe*
- **PCF Sparkletots @ Tampines East Blk 261**
Project Title: *Roving Reporters @ 261*

EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION AWARD (COMMENDATION)

- **MY World Preschool Ltd (Ang Mo Kio)**
Project Title: *Reliving the Past, Present and Future with You!*



Watch the livestream recording of the ceremony at www.ECDAawards2021.com or scan this QR code. Look out for the opening of nominations for the ECDA Awards 2022 in the first quarter of this year.

