

PURSUING A PURPOSE

MOTHERHOOD LED ECDA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT YVONNE LAW TO MAKE A CAREER CHANGE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.



Pursuing a master's degree will help Ms Yvonne Law deepen her knowledge and skills and better advocate for children and families

For 10 years, Ms Yvonne Law, 38, enjoyed her work in the field of actuarial science and risk management in the insurance sector. But becoming a mother made her reassess her career aspirations. "After having my first child, I saw how I was able to shape a new life by recognising appropriate developmental milestones and supporting them."

In 2015, two years after her child was born, she left the corporate world to pursue her interest in this area. She went back to school and earned two diplomas: one in early childhood (EC) education from Ngee Ann Polytechnic and another in the Montessori method. She joined Little Kinder Montessori as an assistant teacher and became its principal in 2019.

TACKLING THE MID-CAREER TRANSITION

Switching from an office job to early childhood was initially hard. "There

is always the challenge of reconciling what you've learnt in theory and reality and narrowing that gap," says Ms Law. "It took me some time to reconcile that wiping noses, changing pants, washing toys and cleaning up vomit are all part of the job when we work with young children. As someone who was late to the game, I humbly learnt the ropes from more experienced teachers."

However, she has never looked back. "Being an EC professional can be challenging, as it requires lots of physical and mental energy. But it's also rewarding, multi-faceted and dynamic, knowing that you are laying strong foundations and shaping lives."

BALANCING WORK AND STUDIES

Ms Law is currently pursuing a Master of Education (Early Childhood) at the National Institute of Education under the ECDA Scholarship. This decision to pursue a master's degree came about after she had taken part

in a leadership training course and enjoyed interacting with other leaders-in-training. "It means so much to have a network of friends with whom we can share our views and concerns," she says. "I wanted more opportunities to meet other like-minded people and gain a broader perspective of the EC sector."

As a full-time centre leader, a part-time master's student and a mother of three young kids, Ms Law stresses the importance of having a strong team at work and maintaining effective relationships with her staff. That is why she immerses herself in their daily routines as much as she can. Working alongside them builds trust and rapport. Seeing their passion for teaching also helps Ms Law stay energised and motivated whenever she has difficulty juggling her multiple responsibilities.

She admires the ECDA Fellows who also serve as principals in their respective preschools. "I hope to be like them, guiding my teachers and being among children and their families. I want to be an active member of the EC fraternity, so I continue to brush up on my knowledge and skills by learning from others and attending courses," says Ms Law. ●

GET SELF-CARE TIPS



Check out the #ECSelfCare101 series as Ms Yvonne Law encourages fellow EC educators to rest and recharge! Visit go.gov.sg/ECSelfCare101 or scan this QR code to learn more.



ANSWER YOUR CALLING

ECDA Scholarships are awarded to outstanding practitioners who wish to deepen their knowledge and skills, and who are committed to take on larger roles in their organisation or the EC sector. ECDA also offers Training Awards to aspiring pre-service EC educators to support their career aspirations. For more information, visit www.ecda.gov.sg/Pages/ecda-scholarships-and-training-awards.aspx.