

DO THE RIGHT THING



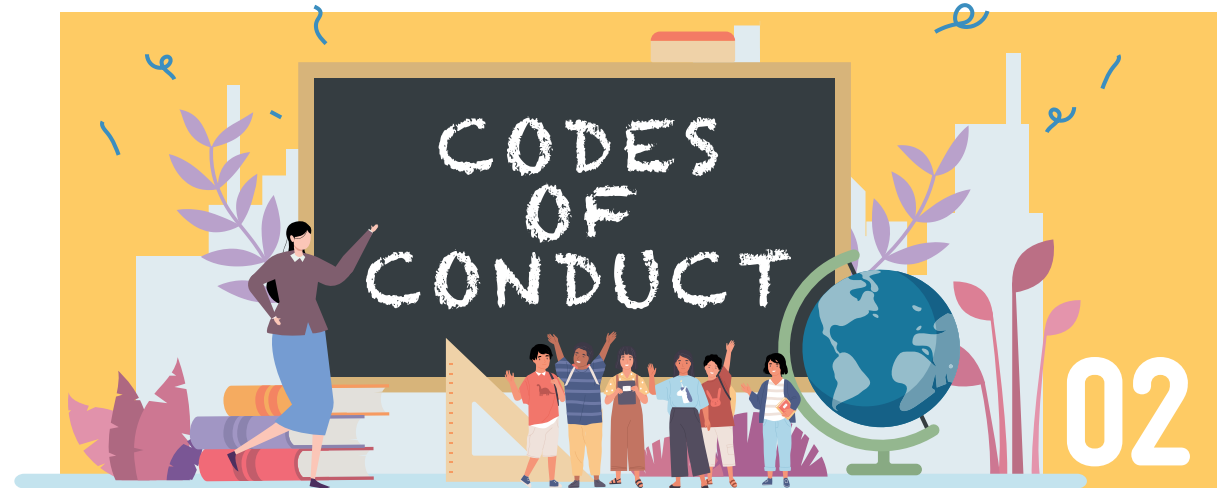
Developing positive behaviours in young children impacts their holistic development. Studies show that when adults adopt positive discipline strategies, such as responding calmly to challenging behaviours, explaining boundaries, and affirming positive behaviours, children benefit socially and emotionally. They learn what acceptable and unacceptable behaviours are, as well as the consequences of their actions on others. They also learn to regulate their emotions and feelings, develop positive interpersonal skills, and engage in pro-social behaviours. By modifying pedagogical practices to engage children at both cognitive and emotional levels, our educators can increase children's engagement, attentiveness and motivation to learn. This *Beanstalk* issue sheds light on how parents and educators can develop positive behaviours in children.

On a related note, families with additional needs can look forward to more help. At this year's Committee of Supply debate, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development, announced measures to better support children from lower-

income families and children with developmental needs. First, we will scale up KidSTART nation-wide and expect to enrol 80 per cent of children from eligible families by 2026. We will also work closely with anchor operators to prioritise preschool enrolment for these children. Second, children below seven years old with developmental needs can receive more timely and affordable support. Over the next two years, 1,400 new places will be added in new centres offering the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIIC) as well as through the Enhanced Pilot for Private Intervention Providers (PIIP). The PIIP scheme will also be made more affordable.

Even as the Government commits to providing every child access to affordable and quality early childhood services and programmes, it is our educators and parents who have the most profound influence on the child's holistic development. As we nurture positive behaviours, we also shape their sense of self, beliefs and confidence. Dr Dan Siegel, author of *The Whole-Brain Child*, reminds us: "Too often we forget that discipline really means to teach, not to punish." Let's work together to adopt positive discipline strategies to raise happy and healthy children.

MR TAN CHEE WEE
Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)



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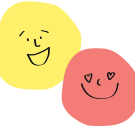
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Beanstalk clinched the APEX 2022 Award of Excellence in the Print Media (Education & Training) category!



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