

YOUR CHILD'S EARLY years are such a crucial part of development. Wouldn't you want to learn the best ways to nurture your child during this exciting growth period? Head to this year's **ECDA Early Childhood Conference** to pick up the tools and tips you need.

Join the keynote speakers to deepen your understanding of how children learn and develop holistically. Learn how to create enriching experiences and environments that bring out the best in your child. Teach him or her how to be confident, resilient and have a love for learning. Educators can glean insights about curriculum and pedagogical practices while furthering their professional and leadership development.

ECDA Early Childhood Conference 2014

Register and find out more at www.ecda.gov.sg

Find out more from this year's event looking at **The Incredible Early Years: Supporting Young Children's Development.**

Details

Sept 19
for educators
Sept 20
for educators
and parents

Hall 1 and Max Atria
@ Singapore EXPO

Did you know

Rapid neural or brain developments occur in the first six years of life

Did you know

The period from birth to six marks an important life stage in a young child, with amazing developments taking place physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally

Workshops & Exhibitions

At the two-day event, you can also browse the **40 exhibition booths** showcasing resources and services relevant to the early childhood sector. This includes teaching and learning resources, healthcare and safety equipment, and services and programmes for pre-schools and parents. There will also be **over 50 exciting and hands-on workshops** that include:



An Intentional Parenting session by developmental psychologist **Oh Shujun** from KK Women's and Children's Hospital. Explore how you can be an intentional and effective facilitator of your child's development.



A session by early childhood development consultant **Puspa Sivan** on how development unfolds during the first three crucial years of a child's life. Find out how to best support and nurture your children.



An exploration on the use of purposeful play and drama in boosting a child's physical, language, cognitive and social-emotional development, conducted by educator **Claire Young**.



An opportunity for educators to learn simple but effective strategies from digital literacy coach **Sean McHugh**. Discover how to make observing, documenting and evaluating children's development easier through the use of digital technology.

Fringe Activities

PROJECT BOX CITY

A showcase of children's playfulness, imagination and aspirations made out of boxes and recycled materials.

MEMORIES IN A BOX

Experience yesteryears through artifacts, games and crafts carried out in collaboration with the National Heritage Board.

READY TO READ

Give your child a headstart in reading. In collaboration with NLB, there will be activity booths to promote the following literacy practices - READ, WRITE, TALK, SING and PLAY.

OUT-OF-THE-BOX KIDS

Tell our mascots about your dreams and aspirations about the early childhood sector.

Praise For Last Year's Conference

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Congratulations for kick-starting these beneficial sessions. We have picked up interesting ideas on how to develop my child.

Parents

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The myriad topics were very wide and comprehensive, making the conference both successful and enriching.

Educators

ECDA Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Development

Come and celebrate with us the contributions of outstanding early childhood teachers, educators, leaders and centres. Learn about their innovative practices and find out more about teaching and learning resources that are available. ♥

FRAMING Childhood

The MOE and ECDA have designed two curriculum frameworks to support local pre-schools in creating quality learning experiences for their children.

THE NURTURING EARLY Learners (NEL) Framework and the Early Years Development Framework (EYDF) offer a professional climate to foster sound care, learning and pedagogical practices and competencies among early childhood professionals to help push up overall quality and standards. Within their broad frameworks, the NEL and the EYDF provide a seamless and coordinated approach to the care, development and learning of children from infancy right through their kindergarten years.

The Nurturing Early Learners Framework (4 TO 6 YEARS)

FIRST LAUNCHED IN 2003, the NEL Framework was refreshed in 2012 by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in light of current developments and research findings in early childhood education. The framework is part of the broader NEL Curriculum which includes an Educators' Guide as well as teaching and learning resources to support educators in creating quality learning experiences for children aged four to six.

"This NEL Curriculum is vastly different from the old workbook-and-worksheet approach," says Ms Marina Ho, 49, Centre Head of the MOE Kindergarten @ Dazhong. "It focuses on nurturing holistic development and I feel that our children have become

Ms Marina Ho, Centre Head of MOE Kindergarten @ Dazhong has seen positive outcomes from using the new NEL curriculum framework.

more confident and responsive as a result." According to Ms Tan Ching Ting, 44, Lead Specialist for Pre-school Education at MOE, the NEL Curriculum lays a strong foundation for children to become lifelong learners and achieve learning goals in Aesthetics and Creative Expression, Discovery of the World, Language & Literacy, Motor Skills Development, Numeracy, and Social and Emotional Development.

The NEL Curriculum is broad enough to accommodate different approaches and philosophies. While it is not compulsory for pre-school centres to adopt it, MOE strongly encourages pre-school centres to use the NEL Framework to review and plan their curriculum.

The seven-volume NEL Educators' Guide as well as other resources are also meant to help educators understand the NEL Framework and implement the curriculum. Operators, principals and training agencies have also been briefed so that the learning goals and teaching principles in the NEL Framework can be incorporated into the way centres organise their programmes, as well as in teacher training and continuing professional development.

MOE has also published a parents' guide to the NEL Framework to enable them to better understand how young children learn, and what their child should be able to achieve by the end of their kindergarten education. It is available at www.moe.gov.sg/education/preschool.

The Early Years Development Framework (2 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS)

LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER 2011, the Early Years Development Framework (EYDF) for infants and toddlers was developed in response to compelling research evidence from neuroscience and early years experiences that underscore this period as an important stage in a child's development.

Ms Angela Anthony, 50, ECDA's Senior Assistant Director (Curriculum Planning & Development) says the EYDF offers supervisors and educators a pedagogy of care to plan and create enriching experiences and environments. It also enables them to strengthen partnerships with families and the community so as to harness the learning and developmental possibilities for infants and toddlers.

"The framework has enabled educators to have a better understanding of the existing practices as well as what they are required to do," says Ms Maureen Soon, Principal with Club HDB Child Care Centre. "They are thus more sensitive to the different developmental stages especially the distinct needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the educators are able to create a positive and nurturing environment."

The Early Childhood Development Agency has also rolled out a series of subsidised 16-hour EYDF training workshops since 2012. The training, says Ms Soon, 55, has guided educators in responding appropriately to children's physical, linguistic, cognitive, social and emotional needs.



The training takes a process-oriented approach. According to Ms Anthony, numerous case studies, videos and observations, role-play simulations, group discussions and reflections help the educators to make connections between theory and practice.

To meet the challenge of more experienced teachers reverting to their old ways of doing things over time, Ms Soon says a system of in-house training and informal discussions was set up, through which staff could share techniques for implementing the framework and remind each other of what they had learnt.

Going beyond core training is a mark of continual professional development in practice. Sharing and exchange allows for a deeper understanding of the framework. "Educators feel supported in drawing connections between the framework, children's experiences and their practices, and so their quality of care is boosted as well as their sense of professionalism," says Ms Anthony. ♥



Maureen Soon, principal of Club HDB, reading to the infants.

More information on the EYDF is available online on [www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/Early-Years-Development-Framework-\(EYDF\).aspx](http://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/Early-Years-Development-Framework-(EYDF).aspx) and NEL Frameworks on www.moe.gov.sg/education/preschool