

PLAY TO THEIR STRENGTHS



engage children, to enable them to learn and progress at their own pace. As the educator John Holt reminds us, we need "to make it easier for them to get where they want to go (not where we think they ought to go), and to find out what they want to find out". Understanding how children learn can also help educators refine their classroom practices to enable age-appropriate and effective learning for children.

It is thus timely that this year's Early Childhood Celebrations & Conference (ECCC) is themed "Learning How Children Learn, Transforming Practices Together". EC educators can engage in professional discourse with local and international speakers, and network with fellow educators to share expertise and experiences.

The ECCC is also our annual celebration of achievements by our educators and preschools via the ECDA Awards, the SPARK Certification Presentation Ceremony and the 'Start Small Dream Big' Finale.

Indeed, our educators play influential roles in the lives of young children, and we value their contributions and well-being. Improving the working conditions of our educators remains a priority for ECDA, and we will share more developments on this front soon.

On behalf of my ECDA colleagues, I hope parents of preschoolers can join me in wishing our EC educators a Happy Teachers' Day!

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

Early childhood (EC) education is in an exciting phase in Singapore, with an increasing recognition that it is vital to our children's holistic development and lays the foundation for their future success.

Findings from neuroscience and child development research show that the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to educating young children is no longer adequate. To optimise their full potential, we should adopt developmentally appropriate practices (DAP), which call for respecting and embracing the diverse profiles of our children in accordance with their developmental stages.

By considering individual needs, strengths and interests, EC educators can adopt the most suitable way to motivate and



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FRONT COVER On Chloe: Outfit Mango Kids. On Alan: Outfit Mango. On Uwais: Outfit Mango Kids. On Anne: Dress Mango Kids, shoes model's own. **BACK COVER** On Asmaa: Blouse & trousers Mango Kids, headscarf & shoes model's own. On Uwais: Polo tee & trousers Mango Kids, shoes model's own. On Mithran: Outfit Mango Kids. On Nirimala: T-shirt, cardigan & trousers Mango, shoes model's own.