

# LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS!

PARENTS SHARE THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S TEACHERS.



**Kaiser Su, 1, has only just started attending infant care, but the infant educators at Raffles Kidz @ Jurong West are already making a difference to his development. Kaiser's mother, Ms Fitri Ertha, shares more.**

● **Separation Without Anxiety** "To ease the transition, the early years educators have established a morning hand-over routine to make Kaiser feel comfortable, such as playing Peekaboo which makes him smile and coo. They have also created a fun, warm and loving environment — so much so that when we celebrated Kaiser's birthday at the centre, he didn't look sad when my husband and I left, much to our surprise."

● **Holistic Development** "The infant educators provide a variety of sensory experiences that spark Kaiser's curiosity. He learns about textures, colours and shapes, and strengthens his cognitive, motor and creative skills through fun art activities such as bubble wrap stamping and crepe paper crafts. They read books, sing songs and play games, in both Chinese and English, which help his language development."

● **Attentive Care** "Being first-time parents, we appreciate the infant educators who have done so much to support us. They provide us with daily updates on how our baby is doing, his habits, likes and dislikes. When Kaiser was ready to start on solids, Teacher Vera (Li *laoshi*) suggested nutritious meal ideas and foods to watch for allergic reactions. Thank you, teachers, for taking such good care of Kaiser!"



Kaiser with his infant educators: (front row from left) Ma *laoshi*, Xie *laoshi*, Teacher Lin, (back row from left) Teacher Kamila, Li *laoshi*, Teacher Zoe and Teacher Linda



Siya with Principal Ms Shelyn Tok

**Dear Principal Shelyn,**

For a principal to know all the children in the preschool as well and as personally as you do is truly commendable. You also show care in the way you attend to each child's health and dietary requirements, including those of my daughter, who is a vegetarian. Most mornings when I drop Siya off, you are there to greet us and share a little about her, be it something notable that happened in class the day before or a learning area that Siya needs to focus on.

Because Siya is an only child, I am especially concerned about her social skills and peer interactions. I appreciate our many discussions about this, and your advice on how I can reinforce and complement the preschool's efforts.

You and your teachers also supported us through a difficult time last year, when my daughter lost her grandmother who lived overseas. Your video calls while we were overseas cheered Siya up as she got to chat with her friends. It isn't easy for a four-year-old to deal with the concept of death. The tips you shared with Siya's daddy and me on how to manage her emotions were very useful.

As an educator myself, I do understand how challenging the job can be, so it's amazing how your team excels at it. Hats off to you and the team!

**Siya said this once and it made me cry: "I hope you are the best teacher for your children, just like Principal Shelyn is for me."**

**Ms Pooja Trivedi, mother of Siya Chandresh Trivedi, 5, who attends Rainbow Cove @ Sennett**

**OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS**

**Mr Benjamin Chua opens up about the dedicated team at TOUCH Child Care (Clementi), who go the extra mile to care for his three-year-old daughter.**



The team caring for Mr Chua's daughter: (from left) Mrs Teo, Shang *laoshi*, Ms Emily, Zeng *laoshi* and Principal Ms Vanessa Lee

"Our daughter joined the centre about a year ago, after a long hospital stay. She has end-stage kidney disease, which requires her to be on dialysis. While some preschools may find it challenging to work with children with special health needs, the centre leader and the teachers welcomed us with open minds and willing hearts by taking her in.

As our daughter is tube-fed, the teachers learned how to administer tube-feeding and change the dressing around the tube.

**The teachers have a positive attitude towards inclusion. They follow specific health protocols to manage our daughter's condition.**

**- Mr Benjamin Chua**

They are mindful that the dressing for her dialysis catheter must be clean and dry, to prevent infection. That means keeping

a close eye on her during water play activities, and covering the dressing with waterproof tape when she showers at the centre. We are thankful for their excellent care.

The prolonged hospitalisation affected our daughter's psychomotor development, but she has grown in leaps and bounds at the centre. She has mostly caught up to other children her age and enjoys running around and trying to climb all over the place. Her speech and language skills have also improved. She loves going to preschool and has made many friends.

The teachers often ask how they can support us better, and even shared their personal phone numbers with us in case we need to tell them something urgent. We are very grateful to the entire team."

**To the wonderful gem, Teacher Nadiah,**

I can't thank you enough for everything you did for me and my son. When Danish first joined the centre, he had trouble expressing himself. I was impressed and touched by how much effort you put in to understand him by doing fun activities together and having one-on-one conversations with him. You showed a great deal of patience in letting him warm up to you.

Moving from preschool to primary school is a big change, but you helped prepare Danish and his classmates for it. You took them to visit a primary school, where they got a taste of student life. You gave each child a diary to jot down information during their visit, to share with their parents. You also taught them how to order food using money.

I will never forget the support and kindness you showed me as a single parent. I didn't feel alone, as you were always there to answer my questions and give useful advice. On days when Danish didn't attend preschool, you would text or call me to check up on him.

Because of your warmth and love, the children feel secure and valued. Although Danish is doing all right in Primary 1, he still misses his old centre and often talks about you, which is why we sometimes come back to say hi. Thanks for the memories!

**Ms Zuraidah Abdullah, mother of Md Arian Danish, 7, who graduated from Little Footprints Preschool @ Woodlands 877 in 2022**



Ms Zuraidah (left) celebrating Danish's preschool graduation with Teacher Nadiah



Danish sometimes drops by after his primary school day ends to visit Teacher Nadiah

**Thank you!**

**SOMETHING'S BAKING** Celebrate Teachers' Day with something extra special!

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