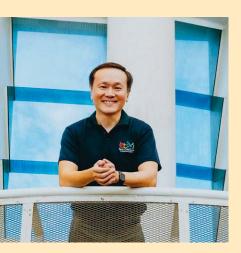
TRANSFORMING THE EARLY YEARS



any early childhood (EC) educators would have attended the two-day Early Childhood Celebrations & Conference (ECCC) held in October 2023, with the theme of 'Learning How Children Learn, Transforming Practices Together'.

I hope you have gained valuable insights from the science of how children learn and how this can guide and transform practices. As educators, the impact you have on children's lives is significant as you lay strong foundational skills and shape their future. What you do matters!

ECDA celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Everyone in the EC fraternity - educators, operators, parents and the community - has contributed towards the significant growth of the preschool sector today. We must continue to build on the good work done.

In particular, EC educators play a critical role in nurturing our children and laying a strong foundation in their early years. The initiatives shared at ECCC 2023 demonstrate the Government's strong commitment towards your well-being and professional development.

Educators will have increased protected time to better support well-being and professional development. The revised Early Years Development Framework, launched at ECCC, and the Quality Teaching Tool being developed will help educators plan meaningful experiences for children and strengthen teaching practices. In the coming years, we aim to enhance our educators' skills and competencies to better support our children's holistic development and ease their transition to primary schools.

At ECCC, we also celebrated the professionalism and achievements of our EC educators and preschools. I congratulate the strong slate of ECDA Awards recipients and newly SPARK-certified preschools. Your efforts symbolise the unwavering commitment of the fraternity to uphold professional excellence and quality standards.

Testament to the strength of home-preschool-community partnerships, I am heartened to see more preschools and parents joining the 'Start Small Dream Big' (SSDB) movement, which plants the seeds of volunteerism in our young ones. It is essential we start early to inculcate good values in our children.

Let us continue to work together to secure for every child a good start in life, while tending to the well-being and development of our educators!



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











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EDITORIAL PANEL Angela Anthony Jennifer Law

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EDITORIAL CONSULTANT



Senior Editor Ronald Rajan Editor Wanda Tan Contributing Editor Joyce Lim Senior Art Director Don Lee Art Director Samuel Na Associate Art Director Rachel Lim **Assistant Lead, Business** Development Michele Kho

Contributors Pamela Quek, Rafidah Razak, Pooia Thakur Elisabeth Lee, Chia Ee Khim, Dillon Tan, Jeff Tan



ON THE COVER

From left Keegan Lim, Tanaikar Malaha Konain, Chloe Tan, Tan Yew Kiong, Tahirah Binte Lajiim, Kate Lim, Syed Aariz Bin Syed Mustakim

Art Direction Rachel Lim Photography Dillon Tan assisted by Roy Yap Styling Sharon Tan assisted by Amanda W Grooming Manisa Tan

