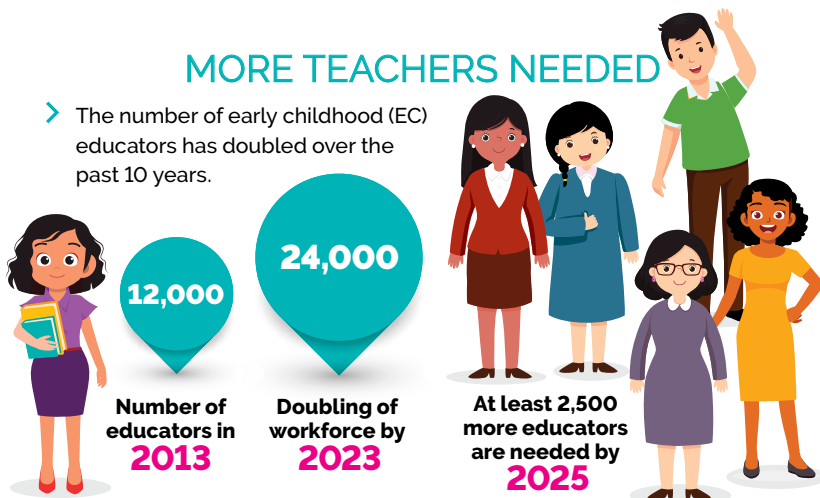


# MAKING GREAT STRIDES

RECOGNISING OUR PRESCHOOL EDUCATORS AND PROGRESSING TO THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SECTOR.

## MORE TEACHERS NEEDED

> The number of early childhood (EC) educators has doubled over the past 10 years.



## ENHANCED WORKING CONDITIONS

EC educators can look forward to these improvements that will take place progressively.

- > From 2024, Teachers' Day and Children's Day will be designated as **preschool holidays**.
- > In addition, preschools will be allowed to close for six days as "**development days**" to focus on educators' development.
- > From 1 January 2025, educators will enjoy a **five-day work week** as childcare centres will no longer be required to operate on Saturdays.



## SHARPENING FOCUS AND SKILLS

EC educators will have greater guidance on planning and designing learning experiences as well as pedagogical practices.

### > EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (EYDF) 2023

The EYDF 2023 supports educators in building strong foundations for children from birth to 3 years, with the following key changes:

- ➔ Greater alignment between the EYDF and the Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) Framework
- ➔ Emphasis on four areas of development (cognitive, communication & language, physical, social & emotional) with developmental goals
- ➔ Introduction of five new guiding principles to guide educators in planning and implementing meaningful experiences for children

### > QUALITY TEACHING TOOL (QTT)

Currently being developed, educators can use the QTT to:

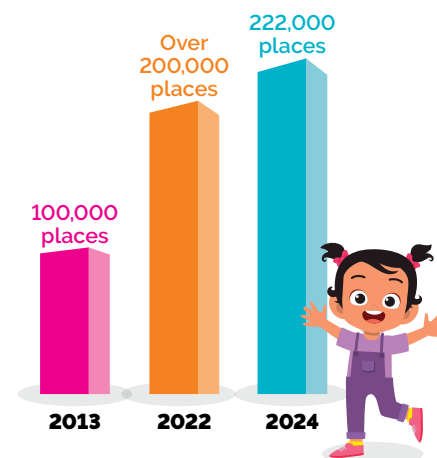
- ➔ Design meaningful learning experiences
- ➔ Facilitate quality teacher-child interactions
- ➔ Evaluate their own pedagogical practices to build on strengths and identify areas for professional growth and development



## ECDA TURNS 10: OUR MILESTONES

- 2013**
  - The **ECDA Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Development**, held annually, recognises exemplary EC and early intervention (EI) educators, centre leaders and preschools with innovative teaching and learning practices.
- 2015**
  - The **ECDA Fellows** programme identifies pinnacle EC leaders to drive sectoral improvements and inspire the EC fraternity. Currently, there are 23 ECDA Fellows.
- 2016**
  - The **Skills Framework for Early Childhood** outlines job skills and competencies, along with career pathways and opportunities for EC professionals.
  - The **KidSTART** programme equips parents with skills and knowledge to support children's holistic development. To date, it has benefitted more than 6,200 children from lower-income families.
- 2019**
  - The **Early Childhood Development Centres Act** brings childcare centres and kindergartens under a single regulatory framework.
  - The **National Institute of Early Childhood Development** is set up to provide consistent quality training of EC educators.
  - EI services** under ECDA boost inclusion in preschools. Families of children with developmental needs receive more targeted support through the expanded **Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIIC)** and the **Development Support-Learning Support Programme (DS-LS)**.
- 2020**
  - The **Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK)** is enhanced with the introduction of the Quality Rating Scale for ages 0 to 6.
- 2021**
  - The **Early Childhood Industry Digital Plan** and **Early Childhood Digitalisation Grant** are launched. To date, half of all preschool operators have adopted digital solutions.
- 2022**
  - The **Leadership Development Framework** provides a common reference for EC leaders to attain the desired attributes, skills and competencies.
  - The **Early Childhood Learning Community** supports educators who are keen to become pedagogical leaders in key domain areas.
  - The **Nurturing Early Learners Framework** is updated for educators of children aged 4 to 6.
- 2023**
  - New revisions to the **Early Years Development Framework**, for educators working with children from birth to 3 years, are unveiled at the latest Early Childhood Celebrations & Conference.
  - More than 1,000 **Inclusion Coordinators (ICOs)** complete training. Each preschool can appoint an ICO to identify children with potential developmental needs, and to work together with parents and teachers.

## A PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD



➔ In 2022, **over 200,000** full-day preschool places catered to every child (Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident) aged 3 and above. EI outreach grew, with DS-LS covering over 50% of preschoolers aged 5 to 6, and EIPIIC numbering 4,400 places.

➔ By 2024, **22,000** full-day preschool places will be added to meet the growing demand for preschool services, with 1,400 new places under EIPIIC.

➔ By 2025, **80%** of preschool-aged children will have a place in Government-supported preschools, up from over 60% today. About 60% of preschoolers aged 5 to 6 will be covered under DS-LS.

Check out ECDA's 10th anniversary video here to see more highlights.  
[go.gov.sg/ecda10thvideo](https://go.gov.sg/ecda10thvideo)