

STARTING STRONG IN THE EARLY YEARS



so that our children can grow, learn and play in a safe and conducive environment.

The Early Years Development Framework (EYDF) was updated last year, offering infant and early years educators with refreshed strategies to transform preschool experiences for our very young ones. EYDF calls for educators to build upon their professional knowledge, deepen their understanding of child development and broaden their pedagogical skills.

Research shows that there are significant benefits to children from low-income families and those with developmental needs when they have more years of regular preschool attendance to supplement a loving home environment. Hence, the Government will continue to step up efforts to provide targeted support to these families and encourage more centres to prioritise early enrolment of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child in the United States noted, "Young children experience their world as an environment of relationships, and these relationships affect virtually all aspects of their development."

Let's keep this in mind as we strive towards a close partnership between parents, preschools and the community. When each of us is empowered to do our best, together we can shape the tomorrow of our children.

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

On behalf of ECDA, I would like to wish all our Early Childhood (EC) educators, parents and community partners a happy and great start to 2024.

Let's welcome the new year with optimism and embrace changes as opportunities for our personal and professional growth. Recognising the complementary roles of parents and educators, we must continue to strengthen home-preschool partnerships to provide the best for our children.

As we usher in the new year, it is timely to focus on our youngest — the infants and toddlers. This resonates well with new beginnings and ensuring every child has a good start in life. Very young children thrive in safe and nurturing environments. It is important for their development to have warm and positive attachments with parents, caregivers and educators, coupled with ample opportunities to play and explore.

Safety continues to be of paramount concern. ECDA will work closely with preschools, training providers and educators to enhance child safety practices



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