

A pioneer batch of SPARK-certified pre-schools has been recognised for their continued efforts in providing quality pre-school education through SPARK re-certification. Find out what SPARK re-certification does for your pre-school.

INCE ITS LAUNCH in 2011, the Singapore Pre-school Accreditation Framework, or SPARK, has been keeping a passion for quality education burning among pre-schools.

A quality benchmark that serves as a guide for pre-schools to improve their education programmes, SPARK has been instrumental in raising the quality of pre-school education in Singapore.

As Mrs Ava Wang, Principal of Bedok Methodist Church Kindergarten says, "I could still remember how delighted we were when we received the news that we had 'passed' SPARK. We soon realised that attaining SPARK was the beginning of another meaningful journey towards continuous improvement."

From their first SPARK assessment report, Mrs Wang and her team looked into areas for improvement. "We then decided to focus on the curriculum plan as it was an important component contributing to the quality of Teaching and Learning. We

BEDOK METHODIST CHURCH

evaluated our lessons, made amendments and reviewed them. These reviews are still on-going today and have become part of our culture to sustain good ······

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//Mrs Ava Wang

practices," she shares.

Ms Koh Huisiu of Star Learners @ Simei echoes Mrs Wang's sentiments: "The assessors clarified the report so that we were clear of our strengths and areas for improvement. We now know where the gaps are and we have greater clarity of what is expected for quality improvement."

Giving KUDOS

Star Learners @ Simei received SPARK certification while Bedok Methodist Church Kindergarten received their SPARK recertification at the SPARK Certificate Presentation Ceremony at the Early Childhood Conference (ECC) 2014. The year 2014 also saw a total of 191 pre-schools attaining SPARK certification and re-certification — the highest number in a single year since SPARK was launched in 2011.

SPARK has also inspired centres to forge partnerships to improve the quality of their education programmes. Three kindergartens — Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Kindergarten, Living Sanctuary Kindergarten and Ascension Kindergarten — forged a camaraderie through an exchange of ideas when they first embarked on their SPARK journey.

In 2015, ECDA will also be introducing a Commendation category to recognise SPARK-certified centres with strong teaching and learning practices. This will further differentiate the

quality of preschool programmes and help parents make informed choices in selecting a preschool for their children.

Mrs Wang and her team of teachers from Bedok Methodist Church Kindergarten

