

**25 & 26  
SEPT 2015**  
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

**SUNTEC SINGAPORE  
CONVENTION &  
EXHIBITION CENTRE**  
(HALLS 405 & 406)

IN  
CELEBRATION  
OF SG50,  
**ADMISSION  
THIS YEAR IS  
FREE**

REGISTRATION  
OPENS ON  
**1 JULY  
2015**

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# DREAM BIG Reach for the stars

The ECDA Early Childhood Conference & Carnival 2015 aims to inspire children and educators alike to take that small but important first step towards being the best they can be.

**E**C PROFESSIONALS WHO aspire to be the best they can be will in turn inspire children to reach for the stars. This message underlines ECDA's third annual Early Childhood Conference. Themed "Start Small Dream Big: Reaching for the Stars", the event explores how educators and leaders can nurture children and

encourage them to dream big — by building on strong foundations while harnessing innovative teaching practices, resources and technology.

Head to the conference to learn, share and celebrate. Find out how you can improve your curriculum and pedagogical skills, and further your professional development. ♥

## Plenary Speakers



### DR JAMES SPILLANE

*Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Professor in Learning and Organizational Change at the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University in Illinois, United States.*

Dr Spillane is an expert in education policy, policy implementation, school leadership and relations between policy and practice.

➤ **Focus: Early childhood leadership development and the concept of distributed leadership**



### DR NIRMALA RAO

*Professor, Faculty of Education, and Director of Graduate Studies & Associate Dean, Graduate School, The University of Hong Kong.*

Dr Rao, a Developmental and Chartered (Educational) Psychologist, is internationally recognised for her research on early childhood development and education in Asian cultural contexts.

➤ **Focus: Accounting for children's learning and development in early childhood education**



### DR DANIEL FUNG

*Vice Chairman of the Medical Board at the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore, and Secretary General of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions.*

Dr Fung has conducted extensive clinical research on social-emotional behaviours.

➤ **Focus: Supporting children's social-emotional development and mental well-being in their early years**

## Workshops & Learning Journeys

With **17 learning journeys** leading up to the conference, and **94 exciting workshop** sessions taking place over the two-day event, there are abundant learning opportunities. Through these learning journeys and workshops, you can learn more about child development and curriculum pedagogy, professional and leadership development, as well as centre, family and community partnerships and collaborations. Some examples are:



### LEARNING JOURNEY

An architecture adventure through the ArtScience Museum. Learn how the museum experience can bring out in children a sense of wonder and curiosity, engagement, appreciation and inventiveness.

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**ArtScience Museum prides itself on offering hands-on workshops that are creative and combine art and science elements. Each child produces something unique and the creative process is as important, if not more so, as the final product.**

// Anna Salaman, Associate Director of Programmes, ArtScience Museum

Sign up for one of our experiential learning journeys cum workshop sessions and stand to win exciting prizes through our Instagram competition! (Look out for details in July at [www.ecda.gov.sg](http://www.ecda.gov.sg))



### LEARNING JOURNEY

An in-depth exploration of the SEA Aquarium that gets you up-close to sharks, bottlenose dolphins, sea jellies and manta rays — and its education programmes. Discover how to impart valuable lessons to children about conservation and respecting the animals in nature, through experiential and inquiry-based learning approaches.

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**An understanding of marine life and bio-diversity will enable our young children to better appreciate our fascinating oceans and the variety of interesting creatures. In addition, it can develop their sense of curiosity and interest in science.**

// Edmund Lim, Director of Education, SEA Aquarium, Resorts World Sentosa



A creative movement session by Dr Stephanie Burridge, PhD in Contemporary Dance, where you can pick up the fundamentals of creative dance education. Use these ideas to create interesting lesson plans that will help children communicate their thoughts and feelings through non-verbal expression.



A workshop that teaches you how to unleash the creative instinct and confidence in young children through the power of making, building, playing and creating. Conducted by research scientist Dr Kiruthika Ramanathan and curriculum developer James Chen.

## What else is happening?

### ★ ECDA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Honouring the best in early childhood education, the awards recognise outstanding teachers, educators, leaders and centres. Gain insights into their innovative teaching practices and how these can benefit pre-schoolers.

### ★ SPARK CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The SPARK Certification is awarded to centres with outstanding curriculum, pedagogy and leadership, among other criteria. This year, join us to celebrate a new Commendation Category to recognise SPARK-certified centres that have attained high standards in teaching and learning practices.

### ★ EXHIBITION & CARNIVAL

Find out more about early childhood initiatives as well as teaching and learning resources available at the various booths. Educators and children are encouraged to join the fringe activities, such as a fun tinkering session conducted by the Singapore Science Centre. All participants get to enjoy the carnival food and games!

### ★ START SMALL DREAM BIG FINALE

In April this year, ECDA put in motion the President's Challenge Start Small Dream Big project. Participating pre-schools and children got involved in projects to give back to the community. Come on down to see how the children have done their part to innovate, problem-solve and use their talents to help others and, in turn, learn important values such as responsibility, empathy and compassion.

