BOOSTING QUALITY AND SUPPORT

INITIATIVES TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD (EC) PROFESSIONALS AND PROGRAMMES, AND ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

ENHANCING QUALITY OF EC PROFESSIONALS

Two initiatives to support the professional development of EC educators and leaders.

A Leadership Development Framework (LDF) will be introduced to guide the holistic development of centre leaders in three competency areas.

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

Core

Foundational and cross-cutting capabilities

Curricular & Pedagogical

Leading educators in quality curriculum design, instructional approaches and practices, and children engagement and interaction

Strategic & Administrative

Setting goals for centre, leading people, and managing resources to ensure smooth operations, continuous people development and centre growth A leadership training roadmap

will quide EC leaders in acquiring LDF competencies through continuing professional development (CPD) courses and milestone programmes.

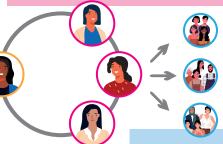
> The Early Childhood Learning Communities (ECLCs) will nurture pedagogical leaders and foster peer sharing and learning of pedagogical knowledge and practices across the sector. Each ECLC comprises up to 20 core members and a resource person appointed by ECDA.

Resource Persons are:

- **Senior Specialists** from the Ministry of **Education (MOE)**
- Faculty members and adjunct lecturers from the National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)

Core members, known as PASTELs (Pedagogists And Specialists in Teaching and Learning), are made up of:

- Curriculum and Pedagogy Specialists
- Lead/Senior Preschool Educators
- Lead/Senior Early Years Educators



The four ECLCs will cover these domains: Early Years Competencies, Outdoor Learning, Social and Emotional Development, and Language and Literacy.

Core members will co-lead Communities of Practices (CoPs) to benefit about 300 educators by 2024.

PASTELs will hold a two-year ECLC membership which includes:

- A minimum commitment of 24 hours and 40 hours in the first and second years respectively, to attend ECLC sessions and customised professional development (PD) programmes, and contribute at sector level
- Fully-funded PD programmes and a **\$1,500 PD grant** in the second year
- An annual \$800 manpower relief fund to employers of PASTELs when they are fulfilling **ECLC** commitments

RAISING QUALITY OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Two curriculum frameworks to guide programme and curricular planning will be refreshed.



An updated **Nurturing Early Learners** (NEL) framework for educators of children aged 4 to 6.



A revised Early Years Development Framework (EYDF) for educators 2023 of children aged 3 and below. It will include:

- Enhanced content in new areas such as teaching Mother Tongue Languages and creating inclusive learning environments
- Training programmes and supplementary resources to support preschools in implementing these changes



EXPANDING KIDSTART

Nationwide expansion to support more children and families.

Targeted at lower-income families with children up to 6 years old, **KidSTART** supports parents with the knowledge and skills to nurture their children's early development, including physical/ socio-emotional health and well-being.

- To date, KidSTART has benefitted over 3,000 children in 13 Social Service Office (SSO) regions. It will be scaled nationwide to all 24 SSO regions from 2023.
- To be carried out in phases, starting with home visits to pregnant mothers and parents of infants in new regions.
- To support KidSTART families, corporations and individuals have contributed \$4 million in cash and in-kind donations since 2019.

ENHANCING QUALITY OF TEACHING

A Quality Teaching Tool (QTT) will be developed to establish a common standard for quality teaching in our local context, which will:

- Be guided by evidence-based pedagogical practices
- Focus on quality teacher-child interactions
- Enable educators to evaluate and build on their pedagogical practices

MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE PRESCHOOLS

Parents can look forward to more affordable preschools.

MORE FULL-DAY PRESCHOOL PLACES

90.000 places in 2012



places today

10,000

By 2025, 80 per cent of preschoolers can have a place in government-supported preschools, up from over 60 per cent today.



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