

Early Childhood Celebrations & Conference 2023

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Concurrent Session A: 27 Oct 2023, 10:45am – 11:45am

Session No.	Title
A1	Enhancing Preschool Learning with Routines-Based Interventions
A2	Mari Menari dan Bergerak! Kepentingan Muzik dan Pergerakan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran Bahasa Melayu
A3	Daring Discoverers: Supporting Risky Play in Early Childhood
A4	Mediated Learning Experience for Early Childhood
A5	We Sing, We Move & We Play: Using Music and Movement to Inculcate Executive Functions in Children
A6	幼儿创意评估
A7	Facilitating Children to Learn Movement – The 5Es
A8	Possibilities, Playscapes and People: Exploring New Lenses and Dimensions for Outdoor Learning
A9	Using Assets-based Approach for a More Effective Home-School Partnership with Disadvantaged Families
A10	Professional Development, Evidence-based Practices and Child Outcomes: The Who, the What and the How of Effective Practice
A11	Enhancing the Quality of Preschool Teaching Practices in Singapore
A12	Transforming Practices: What Our Study Trips Have Taught Us
A13	இளம் மாணவர்களைப் பேணி வளர்த்தலுக்குரிய திருத்தப்பட்ட பணிச்சட்டத்தையும் மொழிக்கும் படிப்பறிவுக்குமுரிய கல்வியாளர் வழிகாட்டியையும் திறம்படப் பயன்படுத்துதல்
A14	Art Appreciation in Early Childhood Education: Strengthening Professional Capacity through the NEL Framework
A15	Practical Approach for the Busy Educator in Supporting the Developmental Needs of Preschoolers
A16	Data and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Innovative Approaches for Teaching and Learning
A17	Building Strong Foundations: Supporting the Development of Executive Functioning Skills in the Early Years
A18	Using Magic and Toys to Spark Young Children’s Interest in STEAM Learning

Concurrent Session B: 27 Oct 2023, 1.30pm – 2:30pm

Session No.	Title
B1	Supporting Educators' Experiential Learning - The Language of Mark-Making
B2	Heart-centred Parent Communication
B3	Improving Early Childhood Outcomes for Children from Low-Income Families: Lessons from our KidSTART Journey
B4	Creating Meaningful Play and Learning Experiences for Children at the Nature PlayGardens
B5	Upsize Our Staff's Well-being with a PERMA Boost
B6	Involving Fathers as Co-facilitators of Child's Learning Journey
B7	Character-Building and Lifelong Learning Starts from Young
B8	Social-emotional Learning in Your Classroom: Positive Practices for Brain and Behaviour
B9	Developing Children's Executive Functioning (EF) Skills to Support their Learning
B10	Understanding Early Years Development Framework (2023): Raising Quality of Early Years Practices
B11	Practitioner Inquiry: Improving Teaching and Learning and Building Professional Capacity
B12	数字科技有效支持幼儿华文阅读
B13	Facilitating Children's Thinking through Questioning
B14	Using Psychometric Assessment to Inform Evidence-based Practice
B15	Building a Strong "Home-School" Partnership to Enable an Active Start for Preschoolers
B16	Cooperative Play: The Development of Cooperation and Novel Neuroimaging and Physiological Paradigms
B17	What Can Educators Do for Preschoolers Who Show Early Signs of Literacy Difficulty?
B18	WAGGA®: A Resource Facilitating Social-Emotional Learning with Children

A1: Enhancing Preschool Learning with Routines-Based Interventions

Organisation: Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities Ltd. (THK EIPIC Centre @ AMK)

Synopsis: This session will share evidence-based approaches for fostering children's development in early intervention (EI) settings. There will be sharing on practical strategies from the team's experience in both EI and EC setting. Drawing from research and practical experience, the team will highlight three key approaches that have proven to be highly effective. The routines-based, child-centric, and play-based interventions aim to create engaging learning experiences while developing children's functional skills. Participants can learn to apply the strategies in real setting through case studies.

About the presenters:

Mr Lim Chuen Leang Edmon, Assistant HOD (Teaching)

Edmon Lim began his career in 2013 as an early intervention educator and has since expanded his role to mentor and coach teaching staff. He works closely with other stakeholders (e.g., parents, social workers, therapists, psychologists, and preschool teachers) to help children with developmental needs. He has also been tele-coaching parents to better support them in engaging their children at home. He is committed to positively impacting the lives of children and their families.

Ms Nurul Ain Bte Mohd Komari, Senior Speech Therapy

Nurul Ain is a speech therapist with years of experience serving children with developmental needs in various settings. She leads a team of allied health professionals and provides clinical education to junior therapists and students. Her intervention and clinical education approaches are guided by evidence-based and client/ learner-centric practices and effective collaborations with various stakeholders. She believes that everyone has the potential to learn and grow, given the right tools.

Ms Chew Bishan Ivy, HOD (Transition Support)

Ivy Chew is an experienced early intervention educator with over 12 years of experience. She currently holds the position of Head of Department of Transition Support in THK EIC Services, overseeing the Developmental Support Plus (DS-Plus) and Developmental Support-Learning Support (DS-LS) programmes. Ivy leads and guides the transition team of senior interventionists to refine THK EIPIC's Ecological Transition Framework and to design the differentiated curriculum to support all children's profiles for a smoother transition to post-EIPIC schools and higher success rates in accessing the curriculum. She is also actively seeking potential community partnerships to promote integration and inclusion opportunities.

A2: Mari Menari dan Bergerak! Kepentingan Muzik dan Pergerakan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran Bahasa Melayu.

Organisation: Curriculum Planning & Development Division, MOE

Synopsis: Perkongsian tentang Muzik dan Pergerakan ini diadakan untuk membantu guru-guru memahami tentang keperluan, kepentingan dan faedah menggunakan Muzik dan Pergerakan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran Bahasa Melayu. Guru-guru juga akan didedahkan kepada strategi dan aktiviti Muzik dan Pergerakan yang melibatkan lagu kanak-kanak dan perkongsian tentang cara muzik dan pergerakan disulamkan dalam Program Literasi Bintang Kecil di Tadika MOE.

About the presenters:

Mdm Sulastri Thamrin, Curriculum Resource Development Officer

Sulastri Mohd Thamrin has been an educator with the Ministry of Education (MOE) since 2005. She obtains her Bachelor's Degree in Malay Studies from University of Malaya. While in MOE HQ, her area of work includes developing the curriculum for MOE Kindergartens (MK) and conducting training for MK teachers. She is also part of the team that developed the refreshed NEL Educators Guide for Language and Literacy (ML).

Mdm Noor Azimah Mohamed Haad, Assistant Director, Malay Language

Noor Azimah Mohamed Haad has been an educator with the Ministry of Education (MOE) since 1999 and is currently serving as an Assistant Director for Malay Language at MOE HQ. She obtains her Master in Education (Curriculum & Teaching) from NIE/NTU. She was part of the team which developed the NEL Framework for Mother Tongue Languages (2014), Educators Guide for Malay Language (2015), the refreshed NEL framework (2022) and Educators Guide, Language and Literacy (2023). Her other areas of work includes developing the curriculum for MOE Kindergartens (MK) implemented in 2014. She also plans and conducts professional development activities for MK teachers and other preschool teachers.

Ms Nurul Aini Ajmain, Curriculum Planning Officer

Nurul Aini Ajmain has been an educator with the Ministry of Education (MOE) since 2009 and is currently serving as Preschool Curriculum Planning Officer for Malay Language at MOE HQ. She obtains her Bachelor's Degree in Malay Studies from University of Malaya. She was part of the curriculum resources development team for refreshed NEL Framework (2022) and Educators' Guide – Language and Literacy (2023). She also facilitates professional development workshops for MK teachers.

A3: Daring Discoverers: Supporting Risky Play in Early Childhood

Organisation: ECDA Fellows (Anglican Preschool Services, The Little Skool House & Hebron Kindergarten)

Synopsis: Enjoy an insightful session on the topic, 'Daring Discoverers: Supporting Risky Play in Early Childhood' and be inspired to use practical knowledge and pedagogical skills to nurture young children in making new discoveries through indoor and outdoor play, while promoting risk-taking to build healthy, confident and competent young children. This session will include discussions on current practices. Educators will be equipped with a risk assessment tool and practical tips to engage parents, and educators in supporting Risky-Play in a safe environment in early childhood.

About the presenters:

Dr Jacqueline Chung, Academic Director of Anglican Preschool Services

Jacqueline Chung has been an EC leader for 26 years. She is passionate about young children's learning in and through the creative arts. She believes that leadership development is crucial and is committed to mentoring & coaching EC leaders. She is an advocate for inclusion and also for innovative practices in EC. Jacqueline has influenced and inspired many leaders & teachers to view the natural outdoor environment as a rich resource for teaching and learning.

Ms Stella Pereira, Cluster Director

Stella Pereira has 29 years of experience in the early childhood sector. She is a strong advocate of the importance of investing in life-long learning, building soft-skills and leadership skills in EC professionals, collaborating with parents to curate memorable learning experiences for children, and enriching the experiences of all stakeholders. She also believes in the importance of leveraging on a multi-disciplinary approach to find creative solutions.

Ms Hephzi Tee Siew Cheng, Centre Leader

Hephzi Tee has 32 years of experience as an early childhood practitioner in the areas of preschool leadership, centre management, curriculum development, professional development and mentoring and coaching. She believes that preschool educators make a significant difference in the lives of children and thus she seeks to inspire them to embrace change and continually upgrade themselves with different pedagogies and approaches. She also believes that teamwork is critical and that through professional discourse, educators are well capable of coming up with innovative ideas that address teaching and learning needs in Singapore.

A4: Mediated Learning Experience for Early Childhood

Organisation: National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

Synopsis: Underpinned by theories of Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) and Self-determination Theory (SDT), the proposed workshop will focus on equipping early childhood educators with the facilitation skills to develop preschoolers' feeling of competence, social-emotional competencies and self-regulated learning. Story books, emotion cards and activity cards underpinned by MLE and SDT to develop preschoolers' social-emotional competencies, self-regulation, and competence will be shared during the workshop. Demonstrations and hands-on activities will be used for the conduct of the workshop.

About the presenters:

Dr Chua Bee Leng, Associate Dean, Professional Practice, OTE, NIE

Chua Bee Leng is the Associate Dean for Professional Practice (Office of Teacher Education) at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. She is also a Senior Lecturer with the Psychology and Child & Human Development (PCHD) Academic Group. Her research interests are Teacher Education, Digital Portfolio, Mediated Learning, Problem-based learning, Motivation and Cognition. She is currently the President of the World Education Research Association (WERA), President of the Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS) and Vice-president (Asia-pacific) of the International Association of Cognitive Education and Psychology (IACEP).

Dr Isabella Wong, Associate Professor

Isabella Wong is an Associate Professor with the PCHD Academic Group at NIE, NTU, Singapore. She is the co-founder of the NIE MLL which is set up to propel the use and application of MLE and Dynamic Assessment (DA) for research in educational settings and translate research findings into practical guides for teachers and practitioners both locally and globally. Isabella's main research and teaching interests are in child and adolescent psychopathology, psychoeducational interventions, school counselling, and instructional mentoring. She has a longstanding interest in teacher cognition, teacher noticing, teacher emotions, and effective high-er education pedagogies. Her current work focuses on MLE, and cognitive and positive education in the primary and pre-school settings.

Dr Nie Youyan, Associate Professor

Nie Youyan is an Associate Professor and the deputy head of the PCHD Academic Group, NIE, NTU, Singapore. She obtained her PhD in Educational Psychology from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and MEd in Educational Psychology from Northeast Normal University (China). Her research interests include motivation in education, self-regulated learning, and innovation in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Youyan has taught psychology at various levels (i.e., Graduate, Undergraduate, and Secondary) since 2001. She also worked as a counsellor at the Mental Health Center, Northeast Normal University. Her research interests are innovation in Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, Motivation in Education and Human Development, Organizational Climate in Classroom and School Settings, and Self-Regulated Learning.

A5: We Sing, We Move & We Play: Using Music and Movement to Inculcate Executive Functions in Children

Organisation: Wigglepods Pte Ltd

Synopsis: The revised NEL added the component of Executive Functions and its importance of developing these life skills in children. Through the workshop, we aim to help participants see how executive functions can be developed using music and movement activities and the link between the two. Using a kinaesthetic and exploratory approach, participants will experience a hands-on session where they will learn simple ideas and strategies to engage children creatively and musically to develop EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS (Cognitive Flexibility, Inhibitory Control and Working Memory) in children 4 years and older.

About the presenters:

Ms Lavina Chong Wei Li, Director-Educator

Lavina Chong has been an early years educator for the past 32 year. Her experience includes being a classroom teacher, teacher trainer, professional staff development instructor, consultant, curriculum specialist, conference speaker and a University professor. She is the Managing Director of Wigglepods Pte Ltd, a creative music movement company, that specialises in the arts from infants to preschool age.

Ms Ter Yin Wei, Manager-Educator

Grace Ter has been a music & movement educator for 12 years. She is trained and certified in Kodaly and Orff methods of Early Childhood music pedagogies, and plays the organ, piano, guitar and ukulele for leisure. Besides teaching young children, Grace also conducts teacher trainings for preschool teachers.

A6: 幼儿创意评估

Organisation: Agape Little Uni.

Synopsis: 我们将分享如何通过设计有创意和有吸引力的评估方式来增强儿童的学习。我们将帮助教师掌握一种创意思维模式，即“WHAT+HOW=WOW”，以使他们能够设计出有效的评估方法。此外，我们还将分享我们当前中心的实际案例和评估资源，包括 ICT 方法，以帮助教师在幼儿园实施这些实践。

About the presenters:

Ms Zhang Jun Nan, Vice-Principal

Zhang Junnan is currently the Vice-Principal of Agape Little Uni@Thomson. She graduated with a Master's degree from the University of Hong Kong and has more than 12 years of EC experience. She has previously worked as an educator at Smart Toddler and as the principal of a China IB international kindergarten. Junnan is recognised for her exemplary accomplishments and contributions, having received ECDA's 'Outstanding Preschool Educator' and 'Outstanding Preschool Mother Tongue Language Teacher' awards in 2022. She also conducts various training sessions for her organisation, including child assessments and Teacher Effectiveness Training.

Ms Zhang Lan Ying, Vice-Principal

Zhang Lanying graduated with a degree in early childhood education. She has more than 15 years of EC experience, having progressed from a Mandarin teacher to a Senior teacher and now as the Vice-Principal of Agape Little Uni @ Cecil. Besides her experience in management and operations of her centre, she is also involved in curriculum planning and training, having collaborated with the curriculum team to create a training program for infants and early years educators. She also provided training for Agape's educators and trainees from China.

A7: Facilitating Children to Learn Movement – The 5Es

Organisation: Sport Singapore

Synopsis: Learning movement skills occur through the interaction of the child and the environment involving the world around them (e.g., with others, in the classroom and outdoors).

To support EC educators in facilitating meaningful and positive movement experiences for preschoolers, Sport Singapore will introduce the 5Es framework. The 5Es are guiding principles which include the following: Learning Environment, Movement Experiences, Exploration, Engagement, Encouragement.

Through the workshop, participants will learn more about the theoretical background of how children learn movement and the 5Es framework. There will also be a practical component to provide participants with a hands-on experience on facilitating meaningful and positive movement experiences through an activity using the 5Es.

About the presenters:

Dr Miriam Lee, Senior Manager, Design and Planning, Children and Youth Programme Development, SportSG

Miriam Lee graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Science (Exercise and Health Science) with Honours and went on to pursue her PhD at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her area of specialisation is in motor control and learning for children. She is currently a Senior Manager at Sport Singapore where her work focuses on building the physical literacy of preschoolers through various initiatives.

Ms Saudi Tan Sze Yin, Fundamental Movement Skills Coach Educator, SportSG

Saudi Tan started her career as a Physical Education Teacher and has been involved in movement education for children and youth in different capacities for 20 years. She is passionate about sharing her expertise with other educators to help children move well and enjoy movement. Currently a Fundamental Movement Skills Coach Educator with Sport Singapore, she supports the development and conduct of workshops, programmes and resources to build capabilities of early childhood educators. She has also been a facilitator of the Fun Start Move Smart introductory workshop since 2012.

A8: Possibilities, Playscapes and People: Exploring New Lenses and Dimensions for Outdoor Learning

Organisation: National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC)

Synopsis: In 2019, the "Outdoor Learning - A National Guide for Early Childhood Educators" was introduced to encourage planning outdoor learning experiences in preschools. This guide was closely followed up with the provision of seven 2-day workshops conducted by NIEC to support teaching and learning in the outdoors. In 2024, preschool educators can look forward to the launch of 3 new OL workshops. This session will be a taster session to introduce leaders, curriculum specialists and OL champions to what they can look forward to in the 3 upcoming workshops to support the effective implementation of OL in their centres.

About the presenters:

Dr Ambika Perisamy, Lecturer

Ambika Perisamy is an experienced lecturer at the National Institute of Early Childhood Development, specialising in curriculum development, designing learning environments, leadership and quality assurance in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). As the Lead for NIEC's Outdoor Learning Strategic Committee, she oversees the programme offerings for outdoor learning professional development workshops.

Dr Shaireen Selamat, Deputy Dean

Shaireen Selamat is the Deputy Dean for Faculty and Leadership Development at NIEC. She co-developed the outdoor learning programme for EC leaders and is an avid outdoor enthusiast.

A9: Using Assets-based Approach for a More Effective Home-School Partnership with Disadvantaged Families

Organisation: South Central Community Family Service Centre

Synopsis: Home-school partnership with disadvantaged families such as families with lower income is elusive. Yet this is where children need intensive support. Presenters will provide details of challenges families in lower income experience and offer an alternative paradigm. By sharing local research and practices on Assets-Based approach, we challenge how those we traditionally think of as needing to be served could actually drive the improvements we seek. Educators are invited to analyse how parenting strategies were formulated independently by disadvantaged families for their children who attend pre-school and EIPIIC, and how the strategies are helpful for most if not all, families. Finally, we discuss how parent/community leaders can enhance home-school partnership to home-school-community partnership and achieve more effective outcomes.

About the presenters:

Ms Juliet Tanuwira, Education & Development Lead

Juliet Tanuwira leads the children and youth's Education and Development programmes at South Central Community Family Service Centre. For education to be a successful means of breaking out of intergenerational poverty, Juliet believes children, families, educators and communities must be heard. In addition to being an evidence-based and impact-driven social service leader, Juliet has 10 years of experience advocating, managing, and participating in a wide range of early childhood, early intervention, and inclusive education programs implemented nationwide.

Mr Chan Xian Jie, Senior Social Worker

Chan Xian Jie is a Senior Social Worker at South Central Community Family Service Centre and an Adjunct Lecturer at the Department of Social Work, National University of Singapore. He lectures on community work practice and actively employs community organising ideas in his work to collaborate with citizens for collective action. Xian Jie holds a Master of Social Work and Master of Science in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Social Work from the National University of Singapore. His interests include the use of community organising approaches, applying critical theories to understand social issues, and conducting practice research, with a particular focus on poverty and homelessness.

A10: Professional Development, Evidence-based Practices and Child Outcomes: The Who, the What and the How of Effective Practice

Synopsis: A skilled workforce that understands the needs of children and can deliver high quality curricula to children with diverse needs, is required in order to realise the wide-ranging benefits that could follow from public investment in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) provision (such as in-service professional development). It is well established that high quality ECEC is important for children's outcomes, and that variations in quality can be explained, to a large extent, by variations in educator pedagogy and practice.

Researchers, policy makers and practitioners are increasingly turning to professional development (PD) as a strategy for increasing workforce capacity and enhancing practice quality across a range of early educational contexts. The success of PD however, depends in part, on the translation of new levels of understanding into skilful, sustainable practice and professional growth. This session draws on examples of effective PD and describes lessons learnt from research and practice, focussing on the 'who', 'what' and 'how' of effective PD design and delivery. Throughout the session we will hear from the voices of participating educators, see examples of effective practice and learn what is needed and what is not to ensure quality practice and children's learning and development.

About the presenter:

Associate Professor Cathrine Neilson-Hewett, Academic Director of the Early Years, University of Wollongong, Australia

Cathrine Neilson-Hewett is the Academic Director of the Early Years, University of Wollongong. She has demonstrated leadership and scholarship in translational research with a strong track record in supporting professional development initiatives across the early childhood education sector. She has co-led six large-scale transformational research projects across 3 Australian states, in over 500 early childhood services, with more than 3500 children. She is a member of the national Early Childhood Development council, is a regular contributor to state and national advisory committees and has taken a leading role in the development of curriculum content and practice frameworks. Her current research projects focus on quality early childhood environments and workforce development, integrated early childhood service platforms, approaches to early childhood assessment along with children's self-regulation and wellbeing.

A11: Enhancing the Quality of Preschool Teaching Practices in Singapore

Organisation: Centre for Research in Child Development (CRCD), National Institute of Education

Synopsis: Research suggests that the quality of teacher-child interactions within the preschool classroom play a crucial role in enhancing preschool education including children's development, learning and behaviour. Through the content of this presentation, educators will gain insights on research findings on teacher-child interactions in preschool classrooms in Singapore. An exploratory research project which was aimed at developing local baseline data on teacher-child interactions in preschool classrooms in Singapore will be shared. This presentation will also discuss the need for developing a tool to measure quality teacher-child interactions in Singapore.

About the presenters:

Dr Karuppiah Nirmala, Deputy Centre Director, Centre for Research in Child Development (CRCD)

Karuppiah Nirmala is currently a Deputy Centre Director, Centre for Research in Child Development, Office of Educational Research, National Institute of Education. She has served several years in the field of early childhood education, holding various positions including lecturer, practicum supervisor, curriculum consultant and research advisor. She also serves in various governmental and non-governmental Advisory Committees related to early childhood matters. Her areas of research interests include teacher-child interactions, children's use of screen devices and diversity and social justice. Her work experience spans several countries including Australia, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Ms Rasnaam Kaur, Lead Research Assistant, Centre for Research in Child Development (CRCD)

Rasnaam Kaur is currently a Lead Research Assistant at the Centre for Research in Child Development, Office of Educational Research (NIE). In the field of early childhood education, she has been an educator, curriculum developer and now researcher. Her work experience mainly includes Australia and Singapore and she has presented at other conferences internationally. Her areas of research interests include child-centric practices, outdoor play, teacher-child interactions, researching with children, teacher development and wellbeing.

A12: Transforming Practices: What Our Study Trips Have Taught Us

Organisation: Association for Early Childhood Educators Singapore (AECES)

Synopsis: This session will engage participants in learning from EC professionals who have made their learning journeys with AECES overseas and local visits of early childhood settings. Participants will gain a wider world view of different approaches for the care and education of young children and provide a platform for dialogue among the presenters and participants. Presenters will also share the changes they have made after their study visits and discuss the process of change and impact it has on children's development and learning.

About the presenters:

Dr Christine Chen, President of AECES

Christine Chen is the Founder President of the Association for Child Care Educators (ACCE) and Founder and current President of the Association for Early Childhood Educators (AECES). She received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Singapore, continued with her Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College of Education, New York City and the Doctor of Education from the George Washington University, Washington D.C.

A13: இளம் மாணவர்களைப் பேணி வளர்த்தலுக்குரிய திருத்தப்பட்ட பணிச்சட்டத்தையும் மொழிக்கும் படிப்பறிவுக்குமுரிய கல்வியாளர் வழிகாட்டியையும் திறம்படப் பயன்படுத்துதல்

Organisation: Curriculum Planning & Development Division, MOE

Synopsis: இளம் மாணவர்களைப் பேணி வளர்த்தலுக்குரிய திருத்தப்பட்ட பணிச்சட்டத்தில் காணும் முக்கிய மாற்றங்களை இந்தப் பகிர்வில் ஆசிரியர்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளலாம். மேலும், பணிச்சட்டத்தில் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ள மாற்றங்கள் மொழிக்கும் படிப்பறிவுக்குமுரிய கல்வியாளர் வழிகாட்டியில் எவ்வாறு இடம்பெற்றுள்ளன என்பதையும் அவர்கள் அறிந்துகொள்வர். ஆசிரியர்கள் இம்மாற்றங்களைத் தெளிவுறப் புரிந்துகொள்வது பிள்ளைகளுக்குத் தரமிகு கற்றல் அனுபவங்களைப் வழங்கப் பெரிதும் உதவும்.

About the presenters:

Mdm Gowri d/o Sataymuthi, Curriculum Planning Officer

Gowri Sataymuthi is a Tamil Language teacher with over 20 years of experience teaching in the Primary school. Currently, she is with the Tamil Language Unit's Preschool Team. Her responsibilities include providing pedagogical support and training for TL MK Educators, reviewing of MK Curriculum and designing MK resources.

Mdm Riswaana Tasnim Binte Noor Mohamed, Curriculum Resource Development Officer

Riswaana Tasnim is a Tamil Language teacher with over 10 years of experience teaching in the Primary school. Currently, she is with the Tamil Language Unit's Pre-school Team. Her responsibilities include providing pedagogical support and training for TL MK Educators, reviewing of MK Curriculum and designing MK resources.

A14: Art Appreciation in Early Childhood Education: Strengthening Professional Capacity through the NEL Framework

Organisation: Art Loft LLP

Synopsis: Be ready for an experiential session on the wonderful world of art appreciation in Early Childhood Education! Participants will be actively engaged in hands-on activities and games that promote observation, inquiry, and creative expression. Participants will gain insight into Harvard Project Zero's Visible Thinking strategies, role play approaches, and play-based learning to support young children's development in art appreciation. Additionally, discover how the NEL Framework (Aesthetic and Creative expression) can guide planning and instruction to integrate art appreciation into daily teaching practices. Participants have the opportunity to work in groups and plan their own art appreciation session, with feedback and discussion from their peers. Don't miss out on this exciting and educational experience!

About the presenters:

Ms Wong Seet Fun, Founder of Art Loft LLP

Wong Seet Fun founded Art Loft LLP in 2008 as an artist who believes strongly in the creative education of young children. Seet Fun holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of London, Goldsmiths College and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College, USA. She is currently an Adjunct Lecturer at NIEC, teaching the Art and Creative Expression module in both English and Chinese.

Ms Evania Yam, Art and Museum Educator

Evania Yam obtained her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and Leadership from Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts in 2014. She has over 8 years of experience as an Art and Museum Educator.

Ms Joy Yean, Art and Museum Educator

Joy Yean has been with Art Loft for the past 8 years as an Art and Museum Educator, teaching children from 18 months old to 16 years old, as well as co-facilitating in educators' workshops. She has a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, and Bachelor of Arts (Communication) from University at Buffalo (The State University of New York).

A15: Practical Approach for the Busy Educator in Supporting the Developmental Needs of Preschoolers

Organisation: National University Hospital (NUH)

Synopsis: This is an interactive workshop with case scenarios of common developmental, behavioural and emotional (DBE) conditions. We aim to equip early childhood educators with the competence and confidence necessary to support the DBE needs of preschoolers in their classroom and to build collaborative partnerships with parents and caregivers of children with DBE conditions.

About the presenters:

Dr Tammy Lim, Consultant

Tammy Lim is a Consultant at the Child Development Unit, Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children’s Medical Institute, National University Hospital. She graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2011 and was awarded the Nestle Book Prize for Paediatric Medicine and the Jane Prize for Paediatric Research. She obtained her Master of Medicine (Paediatrics) and was admitted into the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2014. She achieved her Specialist Accreditation for Paediatric Medicine in 2018.

Dr Jennifer Kiing, Senior Consultant

Jennifer Kiing is a Senior Consultant at the NUH Child Development Unit, Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children’s Medical Institute, National University Hospital. She has over 20 years of experience in developmental and behavioural paediatrics. She has served in the KidSTART Evaluation and Advisory Committee and is a Brazelton Touchpoints Trainer.

Ms Liaw Chin Chen, Learning Support Educator

Liaw Chin Chen has a Bachelor of Education (Special Education) from Flinders University of South Australia and a Master of Education (Developmental Psychology) from Nanyang Technological University of Singapore. She has taught as a teacher in the local primary schools in Singapore and has more than 20 years of teaching experience working with children who have special needs and learning difficulties.

Ms Alison Cheng, Senior Psychologist

Alison Cheng is a Registered Psychologist in Singapore, with over 11 years of experience working with young children. As a Senior Psychologist at the Child Development Unit, Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children’s Medical Institute, National University Hospital, she conducts diagnostic assessments and intervention for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. Alison has conducted public talks about managing challenging behaviours, and contributed to media articles about autism, dyslexia, and helping parents form secure bonds with their babies. She has special interest in helping families cope with their children’s challenging behaviours, including those related to restrictive eating habits.

A16: Data and Technology in Early Childhood Education: Innovative Approaches for Teaching and Learning

Organisation: KLC International Institute

Synopsis: Data and technology in early childhood education are increasingly important for enhancing teaching practices and learning outcomes. With the ability to provide real-time insights into students' progress and needs, technology enables personalised instruction, student engagement, and assessment that can support children's growth and development. Key topics of this interactive workshop include the benefits and challenges of incorporating data and technology in early childhood, innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and strategies to integrate data and technology in the preschool classroom.

About the presenter:

Ms Koh Siew Yong (Michelle), Assistant Head of English Programme (Early Childhood) at KLC International Institute

Koh Siew Yong (Michelle) is the Assistant Head of English Programme (Early Childhood) at KLC International Institute and she holds a Master of Education (EC) degree from National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore. She has over 20 years of experience in early childhood education, with roles that include preschool teaching, training, consultancy, and leadership. Michelle is passionate about curriculum development, training, mentorship and programme development and management. She values continuous learning and takes pride in nurturing, guiding and mentoring educators.

A17: Building Strong Foundations: Supporting the Development of Executive Functioning Skills in the Early Years

Organisation: Centre for Research in Child Development (CRCDD), National Institute of Education

Synopsis: This workshop aims to provide a platform for participants to explore the construct of executive functioning (EF) skills and their importance in early childhood development, learn effective strategies to promote EF skills in preschool, and co-create strategies to incorporate EF skills in classroom activities. Through hands-on experience, sharing of research studies and small group discussions, participants will be encouraged to rethink their current classroom practices to incorporate EF skills into various learning domains.

About the presenter:

Dr Ng Ee Lynn, Senior Education Research Scientist

Ng Ee Lynn is a Senior Education Research Scientist at the Centre for Research in Child Development at NIE. Her research interests are centred around learning and development in early childhood, with a focus on understanding how children's self-regulation skills contribute to learning and development. She is also interested in understanding how preschool-related factors—teacher's well-being and classroom quality—contribute to children's learning. She utilises both experimental and correlational paradigms and has extensive experience conducting longitudinal research studies.

A18: Using Magic and Toys to Spark Young Children's Interest in STEAM Learning

Organisation: Academy of Singapore Teachers, Ministry of Education

Synopsis: Learning is not just a cognitive process but also an emotional process, and enjoyment is an important aspect of it. Join us in an experiential workshop that discusses ways to evoke positive emotional responses in young children through simple magic tricks and toys. Discover how these can be used to spark curiosity and interest in STEAM subjects such as science, numeracy, literacy, as well as a combination of these disciplines! This session aims to ignite educators' creativity and transform the way we teach young minds.

About the presenters:

Dr Muhammad Nazir Bin Amir, Master Teacher, Ministry of Education, Singapore

Muhammad Nazir Bin Amir is a Master Teacher (MTT) at Ministry of Education, Singapore. He is a strong advocate in using creative and innovative methods to ignite children's interest in learning. He has shared his instructional approaches in peer-reviewed international journals, book chapters, and conferences. Nazir is a recipient of the Singapore President's Award for Teachers, the U.S. Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching, and a top finalist in the Global Teacher Prize.

Mdm Hadzar Binte Misiri, Master Teacher, Ministry of Education

Hadzar Binte Misiri is a Master Teacher (MTT) at Ministry of Education, Singapore. She is passionate about using positive teacher language to motivate and engage students. Hadzar is a recipient of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan's LEAP (Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress) Award for Educators and one of the finalists of the Singapore President's Award for Teachers.

B1: Supporting Educators' Experiential Learning - The Language of Mark-Making

Organisation: E-Bridge Pre-School

Synopsis: The professional development content designed for educators are often facilitated through dialogues and demonstrations when in reality their work requires hands-on application of concepts learned. Educators have frequently reflected after attending training courses, that they are unable to visualise how the contents can be practiced when they are with the children. Therefore, the purpose of this workshop is to explore creative modes of learning for educators to more effectively enhance their practices in teaching and learning.

This workshop aims to promote experiential learning to support educators' effective applications in the classroom. Participants will experiment with a variety of mark-making materials, prompting them to reflect on how materials can stimulate their imaginations and motivate them to extend their learning of more complex skills and knowledge, acquiring the strategies to engage children through the design of aesthetic and intentional learning environment.

About the presenter:

Ms Irliana Tay, Manager of Planning & Development

Inspired and motivated by the curious minds of young children, Irliana Tay's teaching practice and philosophy are largely influenced by her work and experience teaching in Reggio Emilia (RE)-inspired settings over the past 13 years. In the past five years as a pedagogist at E-Bridge Pre-School, Irliana finds great joy in sharing her enthusiasm and experiences with fellow educators. She appreciates the educators and mentors whose collaborations have provided opportunities for her inspiration, growth and professional development.

B2: Heart-centred Parent Communication

Organisation: St. James' Church Kindergarten @ Gilstead (Anglican Preschool Services)

Synopsis: As educators and leaders, we find ourselves focusing on our interactions with children and relegate communications with parents as administrative or engaging parents only when matters are escalated. When we work on building strong relationships with the parents, the extent of our influence over the children is expanded and we get a deeper understanding of the child's socio-emotional environment. How can we be intentional in our conversations with parents in a way that is authentic and meaningful, respectful and nurturing? Through this session, participants will learn to identify the different levels of conversations and ways to authentically connect with parents. Participants will also learn how to engage in a crucial conversation with parents using tips and strategies shared.

About the presenters:

Ms Eudora Tan, Executive Principal

Eudora Tan is the Principal of St. James' Church Kindergarten (Gilstead) and oversees a cluster of five Kindergartens in Anglican Preschool Services as Executive Principal. Previously a designer in the architecture field, she joined the Early Childhood sector in 2015 and was awarded the Outstanding Early Childhood Educator in 2020. She is also currently an ECLC Pastel in the Social Emotional Learning domain and leads an active community of practice. She believes that a deep understanding of self and building healthy relationships are important life skills that children should learn and model after from significant adults in their lives, including parents and educators. It is her hope that a positive culture of connection and emotional safety can be built within every community.

Ms Ruth Gamo-Bilon, Vice Principal

Ruth Gamo-Bilon is a Vice Principal of St. James' Church Kindergarten (Gilstead). She joined the early childhood sector in 2013. She believes that every moment presents a valuable learning opportunity, whether it is intentional or incidental, big or small. It is crucial for educators to make the most out of their time with the children. She sees the importance of building on the uniqueness and strengths of each child. As adults, we play a significant role in creating an environment that allows children to thrive. By being a part of this learning community, educators can nurture growth by cultivating a culture of reflectiveness and trusting relationships.

Ms Sherlyn Ho, Senior Preschool Educator

Sherlyn Ho is a Senior Preschool Educator in St. James' Church Kindergarten (Gilstead). She joined the early childhood sector in 2013. She believes that early childhood education is like exploring a secret garden, full of wonder and surprises, and there is always something new to discover. This belief is translated into the way she interacts and relates with the children. She makes sure to be present and intentional because every conversation and relationship matters. She seeks to ensure opportunities are provided for children to build a sense of identity, belonging and ownership, and not just in their physical, but also emotional and social environment.

B3: Improving Early Childhood Outcomes for Children from Low-Income Families: Lessons from our KidSTART Journey

Organisation: KidSTART Singapore Limited

Synopsis: Children from low-income families will need early care and learning opportunities on a level consistent with more advantaged peers. Strong evidence-based programmes with effective early interventions are pathways to close the achievement gaps. This workshop shares the experience of KidSTART journey in providing upstream and holistic wrap-around support for young children from low-income families. KidSTART adopted an evidence-informed approach, integrating evidence-based programmes, practice-based processes, client-centricity, as well as professional values. Through case study, sharing of KidSTART Model and approaches, the workshop also seeks to address the significant role Early Childhood professionals can play in partnering low-income families to give every child a good head start so that no child is left behind.

About the presenters:

Ms Puspavalli Namasivayam, Early Childhood Consultant

Puspa Namasivayam is a veteran in the field of early childhood, with more than 40 years of experience in early childhood training and working with parents and young children in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the region. As an early childhood consultant with KidSTART Singapore, she has played a significant role in developing and pioneering the work of KidSTART.

Ms Pearl Goh, KidSTART Practitioner

Pearl Goh is a KidSTART practitioner with KidSTART Singapore Limited. She is passionate in working with children from low-income and vulnerable families. She empowers families through child-focused and strength-based home visits as she strongly believes that every child deserves a good start. During her case presentation, Ms Goh will share her experience as a home visitor working closely with KidSTART families on effective home practices and positive parenting strategies that helped towards desired child development outcomes. Ms Goh graduated from National University of Singapore and has more than 12 years of experience as an early childhood educator and continues to volunteer as a storyteller, tutor and childminder.

Ms Tan Guat Keng, Principal

Tan Guat Keng has more than 30 years of experience serving PAP Community Foundation (PCF) preschools across the central district and currently with Punggol Shore Large Childcare Centre, leading the administration and curriculum aspects of the infant and playgroup level. Ms. Tan and her team of educators have gone the extra mile to understand and support the needs of children from low-income and vulnerable families. During her case presentation, Ms Tan will share how together with KidSTART, her centre has provided a holistic approach to give every child a good head start. Ms Tan holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with Management from SUSS, Singapore and WSQ Advanced Certificate in Early Years.

B4: Creating Meaningful Play and Learning Experiences for Children at the Nature PlayGardens

Organisation: Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) and NParks

Synopsis: Nature-based environments afford reciprocity and diversity by virtue of their “living character”. The natural loose and fixed elements in the environment allow the children to be highly involved in directing their own play script and thus offer opportunities for exploration, imagination and creativity. In this presentation, tips on how to optimise the Nature PlayGardens for play and learning will be shared. These tips will be based on findings from an exploratory study undertaken by NParks and SUSS on how pre-school children experience the Nature Playgardens set up by NParks. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss activity plans for use at the PlayGardens.

About the presenters:

Dr Sum Chee Wah (Associate Professor), Head, Master of Early Childhood Education Programmes, SUSS

Sum Chee Wah has long years of experience on leadership, policy development and implementation. She has held several leadership positions in MOE Singapore including Head of East Zone schools, Divisional Director of MOE’s then Education Programmes Division, and Advisor, Pre-school Education where she contributed towards shaping and implementing policies on principals’ development, early childhood education, special & gifted education, co-curricular activities, and guidance and psychological services. She also served as Advisor, Pre-school Education at ECDA. She is currently an Associate Professor at the Singapore University of Social Sciences where she oversees the Master degree programmes for early childhood.

Dr Angelia Sia, Deputy Director, Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (Research), NParks

Angelia Sia is the Deputy Director of Research at the National Parks Board, Singapore. She received her PhD degree from the National University of Singapore (NUS), Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Her research investigates the interactions between people and nature in cities, and the associated well-being benefits. Angelia received her first degree from the NUS and Master of Business Administration from Imperial College. Apart from research, she has interest in writing and is the chief editor of the award-winning magazine CITYGREEN.

Ms Elizabeth Chua, Student, Singapore University of Social Sciences / Head of Academic and Operations, SJI International Preschool

Elizabeth Chua is currently pursuing her Masters in Early Childhood Education in Singapore University of Social Sciences. She began her journey professionally from a classroom teacher, a mentor-teacher to a centre leader in the first child study centre in Singapore. She has presented her insights on leadership and pedagogy at various local and international platforms. Elizabeth continues to develop potentials and grow learning and thinking communities that are grounded on sound and innovative practices.

Ms Christine Lim, Researcher, Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology, NParks

Christine Lim is a social researcher at the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology in National Parks Board Singapore, where she studies social interactions with nature to help inform policy. She obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Sciences (Political Science and Sociology) from Singapore Management University before pursuing a research Masters in Social Sciences from the University of Amsterdam, where she specialised in Sociology and Mixed Methods.

B5: Upsize Our Staff's Well-being with a PERMA Boost

Organisation: National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC)

Synopsis: Positive psychology is the scientific study of well-being and flourishing. Preschool educators play a critical role in promoting the well-being of young children. It is also essential that they take care of their own well-being too. Using PERMA framework, which stands for Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Accomplishments (Seligman, 2012) in this one-hour workshop, educators will learn about the PERMA framework and how they can apply it to their own lives to promote well-being.

About the presenters:

Ms Tan Hui Min, Senior Lecturer

Tan Hui Min is a senior lecturer from the National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC-NP campus) and has 15 years of experience in mentoring and training educators and trainers in preschool education. She teaches on Child Development and Play in the Early Years for the diploma programmes as well as various CPD Courses such as Mentoring for Professional Growth. She was awarded the President's Award for Teachers (PAT) in 2022.

Ms Yvonne Chan, Senior Lecturer

Yvonne Chan is a Senior Lecturer from the National Institute of Early Childhood Development and has over 25 years of experience in early childhood. She is interested in topics related to promoting wellbeing and building resilience in individuals. Yvonne has received multiple awards for her professional studies and an international scholarship to study overseas.

Mrs Audrey Chen-Lee, Section Head

Audrey Chen-Lee Mei Xian is a Section Head (Student Development) from the National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC-ITE campus) and has 21 years of experience in the Early Childhood. Audrey is interested in areas related to Learning Environment, Language and Literacy for Children, and partnership for young children's development. She has been awarded several ITE Special Commendation awards for ITE Care, Team Innovation and Productivity, and Academic Excellence.

B6: Involving Fathers as Co-facilitators of Child's Learning Journey

Organisation: Centre for Fathering

Synopsis: In light of the importance of play in a child's development, fathers have a key role to play since it has been consistently shown that fathers specialise in play. This presentation will show early childhood professionals how fathers can be engaged and included as co-facilitators of their child's learning and overall development. Tested methods will be shared during the session and new methods might be discovered through the course of the workshop.

About the presenter:
<p>Mr Parcsen Loke, Family Educator and Coach</p> <p>Parcsen Loke is a husband, father, and grandfather. He is a Family Life Coach at the Center for Fathering, and author of <i>The Modern-Day Dad</i>. Besides helping parents raise their children, Parcsen also helps couples strengthen their marriage bond. He is an accredited Prepare Enrich facilitator and a trained leader of the Gottman Seven Principles Program for married couples. A few things keep him up at night and one of them is football, especially when Liverpool is playing.</p>

B7: Character-Building and Lifelong Learning Starts from Young

Organisation: Pre-school Education Branch (PEB), MOE

Synopsis: The workshop aims to help participants learn how to build intentional practice of recognising and nurturing values, social emotional competencies and positive learning dispositions in young children. Through this workshop, participants will learn more about impact of character building in children's daily lives, their role as an educator and methods to create meaningful learning experiences across various contexts to set up young children for the world they live in

About the presenters:

Ms Jilyn Tan, Senior Specialist

Jilyn Tan is a Senior Specialist from Pre-school Education Branch, Ministry of Education, Singapore. Besides developing curriculum for the MOE Kindergartens, she also conducts training for preschool educators and has been involved in developing numerous guides for teaching and learning in areas such as the use of ICT and outdoor learning. She has a keen interest in supporting the development of social and emotional competencies in young children and firmly believes in the importance of catering to children's interests and needs.

Ms Siti Aisyah Binte Mohamed Kuppai (Ash), Centre Head of MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier

Siti Aisyah Binte Mohamed Kuppai has been leading MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier since 2019. She has 22 years of experience as an early childhood practitioner. She believes that every child has the potential to positively impact the world. She strives to inculcate in each child positive learning dispositions, social emotional competencies, and values which she believes will guide children in their actions and behaviours as they interact with the world around them.

Ms Nur Afiqah Binte Mohamad Ali, Deputy Centre Head of MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier

Nur Afiqah Binte Mohamad Ali has been with MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier since 2015. She has 11 years of experience as an early childhood practitioner. She is passionate about nurturing children holistically and to their fullest potential. She believes that the foundation for lifelong learning begins with an emphasis on character education.

Ms Noreisah Aziz (Eis), Deputy Centre Leader of PCF Sparkletots @ Sengkang North Blk 290A

Noreisah Aziz has been with PCF for more than 15 years. She works very closely with the Centre Principal to develop teachers through training and professional development as she believes that teachers must be equipped with the right tools and knowledge to accelerate their passion and interest in the work that they do. As the Deputy Centre Leader, she leads and contributes to the curriculum, programmes and pedagogies to grow teachers and the centre to positively impact the children.

B8: Social-emotional Learning in Your Classroom: Positive Practices for Brain and Behaviour

Organisation: Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)

Synopsis: Social emotional learning is a critical part of healthy development. We want to raise happy, calm and well-adjusted children in our classrooms. However, tantrums and outbursts are regular occurrences and an educator may struggle to have things under control.

In this workshop, participants will learn about a young child's brain to better understand how children learn and why they behave the way they do. Practical strategies and fresh ideas based on brain science will be introduced to foster healthy emotional and intellectual development for young children. The workshop will also help participants see the benefits of effecting change and transformation in a child's internal motivation for positive behaviour.

About the presenters:

Dr Cynthia Lim, Senior Lecturer

Cynthia Lim is Deputy Head of the early childhood education programme at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) and has been teaching for 26 years. She teaches children's social-emotional learning, early years math and infant/toddler development courses. Her areas of research include adult/child interactions, reflective practice, child agency and STEM education. Her approach to supporting good behaviour in children stems from her beliefs in positive guidance and building the inner processes of a child.

Dr Aletheia Lee, Senior Lecturer

Aletheia Lee is a neuroscientist and early years specialist in developmental sciences and infant/toddler care and education. She is a RIE® Associate for Magda Gerber's Educaring® Approach, and a senior lecturer for early childhood education at SUSS. Her integrative practice combines perspectives from brain, mind, body, and spirit. She focuses on developmental psychology, agency, learning, adaptive behaviour, and brain plasticity.

B9: Developing Children's Executive Functioning (EF) Skills to Support their Learning

Organisation: MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol Cove

Synopsis: Executive Functioning (EF) skills are mental processes that enable us to plan, focus, remember instructions and juggle tasks. These skills are not only needed for everyday activities but also crucial in supporting children's learning and development and are linked to success in school and in life. With their inclusion in Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) Framework 2022 and considering research which shows that the preschool years are the prime time for children to develop these skills, it is important for preschool educators to consider how the development of children's EF skills can be integrated into centre practices in sustainable ways.

The workshop will unpack what executive functioning (EF) skills are which includes the 3 components (inhibitory control, working memory and cognitive flexibility), why they are important and how they can support children's learning and development. It aims to help participants discover how the development of EF skills could be weaved into everyday activities, routines and transitions intentionally, through a whole-centre approach.

About the presenters:

Ms Jesslyn Wong, Centre Head

Jesslyn Wong is the Centre Head of MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol Cove and has 18 years of experience in the early childhood sector. She believes that executive functioning skills is important in supporting children's learning and development. She spearheaded the implementation of executive functioning skills as a whole-centre approach in her kindergarten since 2022.

Ms Khoo Lin Xiu, Level Head

Khoo Lin Xiu is the Level Head of MOE Kindergarten @ Punggol Cove and supports her Centre Head in leading the curriculum and centre-initiated programmes to support children's learning in the kindergarten. She has keen interest in how executive functioning skills supports children's learning and development. She has led a team of teachers in developing practical strategies on how to develop children's executive functioning skills through daily activities and routines.

B10: Understanding Early Years Development Framework (2023): Raising Quality of Early Years Practices

Organisation: Early Childhood Development Agency

Synopsis: This presentation introduces key contents of the Early Years Development Framework (EYDF), revised by ECDA in 2023. It will illustrate how the concepts and principles identified in consultation with the sector, can be applied in early years settings to improve professional practices. Case scenarios will be used and created to illustrate how the principles can be applied when planning and providing experiences for infants and toddlers. Join us for a deeper discussion and share your ideas in applying the revised Framework.

About the presenters:

Dr Melinda Eng, EYDF Consultant

Melinda Eng has over 20 years of experience in the Early Childhood (EC) sector. Her roles are extensive, having had ground experiences at centre to HQ level. She is also experienced in content drafting of EC publications and curriculum frameworks, developing courses, curriculum plans and resources, as well as conducting training for educators. Through these accumulated experiences, she is well-attuned to the ground realities, practical challenges faced when implementing curriculum plans and the support educators would need to manage these challenges.

A joint presentation with ECDA officers from Professional Learning and Programme Development unit

B11: Practitioner Inquiry: Improving Teaching and Learning and Building Professional Capacity

Organisation: Singapore University of Social Sciences

Synopsis: The workshop strengthens early childhood practitioners' reflective thinking and promotes quality teaching and learning environments through teacher inquiry. This interactive session introduces participants to the cycle of teacher inquiry and some examples of small-scale teacher inquiry projects. Through small-group discussions and video clips, this workshop will provide real-life case scenarios allowing participants to revisit their classroom observations, discuss the possible teacher inquiry questions, and identify relevant tools to gather data, interpret data and act, thus strengthening their professional capacity.

About the presenters:

Dr Li Jiayao, Lecturer

Li Jiayao is a lecturer in the early childhood education department at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. She has over six years of experience in education. She teaches Research Methods in Early Childhood Education and Practitioner Inquiry and Learning. Her research interests include STEM in early childhood education, Quality Rating and Improvement System, and parent-child interactions.

Dr G Kaveri, Senior Lecturer

G Kaveri is a senior lecturer in the early childhood education department at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. She has over twenty years of experience in education and works with in-service and pre-service early childhood educators. Her research interests include child-centred guidance, sustainability education, home-school partnership and quality teacher-child interactions.

B12: 数字科技有效支持幼儿华文阅读

Organisation: KLC International Institute

Synopsis: 本工作坊旨在探讨数字科技如何有效支持幼儿的华文阅读。在新加坡，幼儿华文阅读是一项重要的学习目标，因为它有助于幼儿理解和掌握汉字，提高幼儿的语言表达能力和思维能力。然而，数字化手段的广泛应用也带来了一些挑战。

本工作坊将介绍数字化手段在幼儿华文阅读中的优势和挑战，以及影响数字化教学设计的因素。我们还将介绍 TPACK 模型，探讨如何在数字化教学中融合技术、教学和学科知识，以及如何根据幼儿的认知发展和学习需要进行教学设计。

通过本工作坊的学习，您将能够了解数字化手段如何帮助幼儿提高华文阅读能力，并且了解如何使用 TPACK 模型指导数字化教学的设计和实施。我们相信，本工作坊将有助于您提高幼儿的阅读理解能力，培养幼儿的兴趣和习惯，并帮助幼儿掌握一定的汉字识读能力。

About the presenter:

Mdm Hou Jing, Assistant Head of Chinese Programme

Hou Jing is currently a Senior Lecturer and Assistant Head of Chinese Programme in KLC International Institute and holds master's degrees in both early childhood education and computer science. She has rich experiences working with young children, parents, and teachers in the early childhood sector. In recent years, she was often invited by ECDA, National Library Board, China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week, and MediaCorp as speaker and workshop presenter for early childhood education conferences to share experiences and expertise. She believes every child is a genius and the teacher's role is to nurture the young lives with patience to release their potentials.

B13: Facilitating Children's Thinking through Questioning

Organisation: Carpe Diem Schoolhouse

Synopsis: Questions are powerful tools to engage children in conversations and gain meaningful insights into how children think. Educators are constantly seeking effective ways to foster positive teacher-child interactions that cater to the unique developmental requirements of each child. This session focuses on intentionally using thoughtful questions through the use of questions props and picture books to challenge children's thinking. Participants will learn strategies on stretching children's thinking and giving them opportunities to wonder, ask, suggest, explain and reflect.

About the presenters:

Ms Asyriawati binte Mohd Hamzah, Head of Curriculum & Training

Asyriawati binte Mohd Hamzah has 18 years of early childhood experience in teaching and leadership in local and international schools overseas. Through her training sessions, she shares current and innovative ways to inspire leaders and teachers to make the curriculum come alive and coaches centre staff to implement quality teaching and learning approaches. She has presented papers at international and local early childhood conferences on various topics of research in curriculum development and teaching pedagogy.

Ms Norwaty Mamsie, Centre Leader

Norwaty Mamsie has more than 32 years of teaching and leadership experience in early childhood. She is an accomplished educator with demonstrated ability in coaching her fellow colleagues and facilitating presentations engagingly. She led in the design of learning environments for new and upgraded childcare centres in Singapore, and her strong planning, organisational, and leadership skills have led her centre to win awards such as ECDA Outstanding Centre Teaching & Learning (Commendation).

Ms Audrey Teo Hui Ping, Lead Preschool Educator

Audrey Teo has more than 20 years of teaching and leadership experience in early childhood. She is a strong advocate for meaningful conversations and dialogues with children. She mentors her team of educators to incorporate music and arts into their teaching practices and leads by example through her interest in playing the ukulele. She strongly believes that leading by example is her most powerful teaching tool.

B14: Using Psychometric Assessment to Inform Evidence-based Practice

Organisation: Ministry of Social and Family Development, Office of Chief Psychologist

Synopsis: Quality instructional practices promote children’s physical, language, cognitive, and social emotional development. It is thus important that educators understand the levels of their children’s development and their teaching practices so as to help themselves calibrate their teaching practices to meet children’s learning and developmental needs. In this workshop, we will discuss how data obtained from psychometric assessments of children’s development and educator’s instructional practices can help educators and leaders provide quality teaching for children of different levels of development.

About the presenters:

Dr. Lily Lau, Senior Principal Educational Psychologist

Lily Lau is a senior principal educational psychologist at Office of Chief Psychologist (OCP) in Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). She received her Masters and PhD in educational psychology from Australia and has been assessing and providing intervention to children with developmental delays and disorders for over a decade. She also provides teaching and supervision to junior psychologists.

Dr. Suhui Yap, Senior Research Psychologist

Yap Suhui is a senior research psychologist at Office of Chief Psychologist (OCP) in Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). She graduated from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 2009 and received her Master and PhD in Social Psychology from Queen’s University in 2016 and 2021, respectively. She worked with children with autism as a behavioural therapist for Intervention Services for Autism and Developmental Delay before she pursued her graduate studies. During her free time, she enjoys reading and yoga.

B15: Building a Strong “Home-School” Partnership to Enable an Active Start for Preschoolers

Organisation: Sport Singapore

Synopsis: Every child’s first encounter with physical literacy is through the parents. Thus, it is important to enable and empower parents to provide the platforms for every child to discover the joy of learning, acquiring crucial fundamental movement skills and leading an active, healthy lifestyle.

Active Parents is a social movement by Sport Singapore (SportSG) to enable and empower parents to play an active role in their child’s life and sporting journey. Initiated in April 2020, more than 30,000 parents have since started their Active Parents journey with SportSG.

Through the sharing by SportSG, educators will learn about the support and resources from SportSG for parent engagement to enable children's holistic development through sport. There would also be breakout discussion to exchange ideas and explore new ways to engage parents.

About the presenter:

Ms Diana Seng, Director, Children and Youth Programme Development, SportSG

Diana Seng oversees the Children and Youth (C&Y) Programme Development Division in Sport Singapore to chart the direction of overall sport participation for the C&Y segment and deliver a portfolio of initiatives and programmes. Active Parents movement is one of the key workstreams to empower parents and families as enablers for the holistic development of C&Y through sport.

Tan Kia Boon, Fundamental Movement Skills Coach

Ms Tan Kia Boon is currently a Fundamental Movement Coach with Sport Singapore. She has been working with preschoolers and EC educators through SportSG’s Nurture Kids programme since 2017.

B16: Cooperative Play: The Development of Cooperation and Novel Neuroimaging and Physiological Paradigms

Organisation: Science of Learning in Education Centre (SoLEC), National Institute of Education

Synopsis: Cooperative play equips preschoolers with motor skills, promotes prosocial behaviour, and facilitates preschoolers' socio-cognitive development. During cooperative play, preschoolers are required to commit to a shared intentionality that involves acting together to achieve a common goal. This workshop will inform participants of the research behind the development of cooperation and understand the far-reaching effects of cooperative play on preschoolers' social cognitive development. Participants will be introduced to recently developed neuroimaging and physiological paradigms to examine the dynamics between interacting partners through a demonstration of a laboratory-based study on cooperative play. The workshop will also discuss the translation of research findings and theoretical concepts to current real-world pedagogies and the research-guided improvements that can be made.

About the presenters:

Dr Jessica Tan, Research Fellow

Jessica Tan is a Research Fellow at NIE-NTU. She graduated with a PhD from the MARCS Institute of Brain, Behaviour and Development. Her research utilises neurophysiological and eye-tracking methods to examine language development in infants and young children. Through her research, she hopes to tease apart the mechanisms underlying social interaction and understand how learning is enhanced through social interaction.

Mr Wong Jin Nen, Research Assistant

Jin Nen Wong is a Research Assistant at NIE-NTU. He graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) majoring in Psychology and Economics. His research uses psychometric analysis on different types of measures, psychological and otherwise. Through his research, he hopes to determine the socio-economic factors that affect developmental and educational outcomes.

Mr Orhun Timurcan Ozcelik, Research Assistant

Orhun Timurcan Ozcelik is a Research Assistant at NIE-NTU. He graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours). His research utilises eye-tracking to understand individual differences in face perception and skin conductance to uncover differences in engagement in class versus home-based learning. He is currently interested in taking a multi-modal approach to study the neurophysiological and behavioural correlates underpinning individual differences in social cognition utilising neuroimaging, eye-tracking, and skin conductance measures.

B17: What Can Educators Do for Preschoolers Who Show Early Signs of Literacy Difficulty?

Organisation: Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) Academy

Synopsis: Educators may encounter children with literacy delay in their classrooms and often wonder what can be done to support these children. In the early years, children may not be ready for formal assessments but could be struggling with reading, spelling and handwriting because of various developmental reasons. They can however overcome their struggles if they receive early intervention appropriate to their needs.

This workshop covers the fundamentals of quality early literacy instruction, including handwriting, alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, decoding and sight words. Educators will learn to identify literacy subskills that might have impeded children's literacy acquisition, apply principles of quality literacy instruction in classroom, implement Special Educational Needs (SEN) friendly literacy strategies and apply the four components of effective reading instruction. Through video demonstrations, simulation and hands-on activities, educators will be equipped with the knowledge and strategies to support the literacy development of preschoolers of different abilities in the classroom.

About the presenters:

Dr June Siew, Head of DAS Academy

June Siew provides thought leadership in the field of Special Educational Needs (SEN), focusing on dyslexia. She holds a grounded perspective of SEN, developed through her extensive experiences with students and their community of support. She is a pioneer in advocating inclusive practices in schools and has been training SEN officers since they were first introduced to the mainstream school system in 2005. She passionately believes that the family and community are key to a child's success and works closely with them to help students with SEN thrive.

Dr Priscillia Shen, Assistant Head of DAS Academy

Priscillia Shen began her special education journey as an Educational Therapist at DAS since 2005. Her previous experience in working closely with learners with specific learning difficulties (SpLD) has allowed her to take on a constructive and practical pedagogical approach in her teaching practice. She believes in keeping up with current research and developments in the field to continually refine teaching practices and maintain professional passion. Her research interests are in Dyslexia, Bilingualism, Chinese language, and Mathematics.

B18: WAGGA®: A Resource Facilitating Social-Emotional Learning with Children

Organisation: KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Department of Child Development

Synopsis: The workshop aims to introduce early childhood educators to the ABCs of social-emotional learning (SEL) in early childhood and strategies to weave SEL into the existing class curriculum. Participants will be provided with a toolkit for a hands-on practice using SEL strategies, e.g., building emotional awareness and regulation skills to promote social-emotional development and competence. Participants will have the opportunity to co-create social-emotional activities with the Learning Support Educators (LSEs) and bring them back to use in their classrooms.

About the presenters:

Ms Eunice Lee Hui Hui, Senior Psychologist

Eunice Lee is a Senior Psychologist at the KKH Department of Child Development, and member of the Developmental Support Learning Support (DS-LS) Consultancy Team. Experienced in assessment, intervention, and the development needs of preschool children, Eunice's passion includes working with children who require behavioural and social-emotional support, as well as training and coaching associate psychologists and Learning Support educators.

Ms Jennifer Tan Huey Li, Principal Psychologist

Jennifer Tan is a Principal Educational Psychologist at KKH Department of Child Development (DCD). She leads a multi-disciplinary team from DCD working closely with ECDA and preschools to develop and pilot new services, as well as advising and facilitating on implementation activities in an early intervention programme. Her research interest involves inclusion, differentiated instructions, and supports for children with developmental needs.

Dr Cindy Teow Su Xing, Senior Occupational Therapist

Cindy Teow is a Senior Occupational Therapist at KKH Department of Child Development and is a team member of the Wagga Research and the simplification of the Wagga series books developed by the department. Cindy's main research interests relate to family-centred practice, relationship-based approaches, child participation in daily occupations and sensory integration. Cindy considers it a joy working and serving families of children with developmental disabilities and mentoring junior therapists.