

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF STATE
FOR SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, AND HOME AFFAIRS
MS SUN XUELING
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
VIRTUAL APPOINTMENT CEREMONY 2022
WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY 2022, 1.30PM – 2.30PM, VIA ZOOM**

Professional Development Programme participants,
Nominators and Preschool Operators,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

- 1 Good afternoon. I am delighted to join all of you at the Professional Development Programme (PDP) Virtual Appointment Ceremony 2022.
- 2 Today's ceremony marks the appointment of our **seventh batch of PDP participants**. PDP has been supporting the professional development and career aspirations of our early childhood educators since 2016. I am pleased to witness your appointment into PDP today.

Our Commitment towards Developing Early Childhood Educators

- 3 The Government is committed to giving every Singaporean child a good start in life. And that includes the provision of affordable, accessible and quality early childhood education which ensures that all children have a good start in life,

regardless their starting points. To achieve this, we are grateful to all our passionate educators who do your best to nurture, guide and care for our children.

This is why developing EC professionals is a top priority for us. We want to provide you the support you need at every stage of your career.

- 4 Last year, we launched the refreshed **Skills Framework for Early Childhood** to set out enhanced career pathways and competencies for various job roles in the sector. At MSF's Committee of Supply earlier this year, we reaffirmed our commitment towards raising the quality of early childhood professionals and programmes. Raising the quality of early childhood professionals and programmes achieves two key objectives: a) ensuring our children receive early guidance and instruction which are helpful to their life-long learning, and the development of social emotional competencies which will help them develop into happy, confident individuals and b) ensuring that our early childhood professional have a rewarding career – both in terms of skills development and competencies and also career and wage progression. New sector-wide initiatives such as the **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Roadmap** and **Leadership Development Framework (LDF)** were launched to provide guidance to our educators and leaders in honing their skills and competencies.
- 5 We also launched the **Early Childhood Learning Communities (ECLC)** to provide a platform for senior educators to share pedagogical knowledge and practices with one another as they become future pedagogical leaders.

- 6 Going forward, PDP will be more closely aligned with these sectoral initiatives to provide educators with more developmental opportunities and prepare them for each transition in their careers.

The PDP Journey

- 7 **In the past 6 years, ECDA has invested over \$13 million on Professional Development Programme** to support over 2,200 preschool educators and centre leaders in enhancing their skills and competencies.
- 8 Today, we celebrate the Professional Development Programme appointment of **456 educators, including some Early Childhood leaders**. This brings our **Professional Development programme community to over 2,700 educators, of which about 650 have already graduated** from the programme.
- 9 It is never easy juggling work and one's professional development at the same time. That's why I am heartened to see PDP participants not only committed to the three-year journey, but also intent on applying acquired skills and competencies to your work.
- 10 I am very pleased to share that almost half of the preschool educators who have completed Professional Development Programme DP have taken up larger and more complex job roles by the end of the programme. Ms Shariffah Nadiah from PCF Sparkletots is one such educator. She took on the role of Senior Preschool Educator in her final year of PDP.

Shariffah appreciates how PDP has prepared her for senior roles in her centre and given her confidence to mentor new educators and lead centre-wide projects.

Closing

- 11 With us today are also the nominators of our PDP participants. Thank you for supporting the continuous professional development of our educators and partnering ECDA in raising the quality of early childhood education in Singapore. As educationalist Dylan William put it, “Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better.” And I know that in every heart of our educators, we want to be better for the sake of our children and for their future. I am confident PDP will be a valuable programme for preschools as our PDP participants sharpen their pedagogical and leadership skills to deliver even better learning outcomes.

- 12 Again, congratulations to all PDP participants. I wish you a fulfilling journey ahead. Thank you.