



Children engaging in fun activities at one of the many stations at the event.

Colouring on picnic mats provided by ECDA at the launch event.

# Dreaming BIG

Stay Small Dream Big



Having a friendly competition at an obstacle course station set up by Sport Singapore.

Pre-schoolers gathered for exhilarating fun and games as they pledged to make a mark in the community.

**B**ISHAN-ANG MO KIO Park was bustling with excitement and chatter on the morning of 29 April 2016 as more than 1,500 pre-school children and 300 early childhood educators assembled for the launch of 'Start Small Dream Big' (SSDB). Introduced by the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) in

2015, the President's Challenge initiative encourages pre-schools to create opportunities for children and their families to give back to the community. The launch ceremony was both a meaningful and educational one. Activity stations were put up by ECDA's partners to engage children and share useful knowledge and skills with them. Science Centre Singapore, for instance, introduced children to the concept of sound and pitch, using simple musical instruments made from coloured straws. The National Environment Agency encouraged

eco-habits and taught children about dengue prevention. Physical development was also part of the educational agenda. Much to the children's delight, obstacle courses were also set up by Sport Singapore.

Joining in the fun was Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister of Social and Family Development who participated in various activities with the children. He also read an inspiring story to the SSDB children. "This story shows that even if you're small, you can make a difference," he said. "You, too, can make a positive impact on someone's life even though you're still little boys and girls."

To mark the launch of SSDB 2016, Mr Tan put a metal globe that captured the reflection of everyone present into a tube. This released thousands of bubbles into the air, spreading the

at the centre. "We also hope they will learn to appreciate the pioneer generation, including their grandparents."

## Walking with Daddy

The PSH Tanglin project, 'Thankful Feet', saw pre-schoolers from various PSH centres taking part, together with their fathers, in a 1.8km charity walk at the Singapore Sports Hub on 28 May 2016. Proceeds from registration donations for the walk and sales of Pat's Times (a current-affairs newspaper created by K2 students)

would go to the Children's Cancer Foundation, a President's Challenge beneficiary. "We've always believed children are never too young to do something meaningful," said Ms Ada Teo, Principal of PSH Tanglin. "Through community projects such as this charity walk, we hope our children will learn how to appreciate what we have and understand that being generous and sharing with those in need can be equally fulfilling." ♥



Find out more about the 'Start Small Dream Big' initiative at bit.ly/SSDB2016.



Pre-schoolers from various PSH centres took part in the 'Thankful Feet' project, together with their fathers.



Minister of Social and Family Development Mr Tan Chuan-Jin with children from LEAP School House.

➔ This year, ECDA's SSDB President's Challenge initiative involves:

- 20,000 CHILDREN
- FROM OVER 300 PRE-SCHOOLS
- Taking part in community projects over a period of 6 MONTHS
- THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PRE-SCHOOLS IS DOUBLE THAT IN 2015

PHOTOS BY KELVIN CHIA