



Mr Lee making his first ECC appearance as Minister for Social and Family Development

A PROFESSION OF LEADERS

KEY MOVES TO STRENGTHEN EDUCATORS' LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES UNVEILED AT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE 2017.



➤ **Who can qualify:** To join the programme, Centre Leaders and Lead Teachers must be nominated by their employers.

➤ **What it comprises:** 180 hours of professional development over three years, including compulsory modules, an ECDA-funded overseas study trip and projects. Participants will receive cash awards of up to \$15,000 in total.

➤ **When it starts:** Employers have until 8 December 2017 to nominate their eligible Centre Leaders and Lead Teachers at [www.ecda.gov.sg/Pages/ECDA-PDP\(L\).aspx](http://www.ecda.gov.sg/Pages/ECDA-PDP(L).aspx).

Growing the Fraternity of Pinnacle Leaders

The pioneer batch of 14 ECDA Fellows is set to complete their three-year term in March 2018. ECDA has started the recruitment for the second batch of ECDA Fellows who will be appointed next April.

They are, like the pinnacle leaders before them, expected to drive quality improvements in the early childhood (EC) sector and develop the fraternity of EC professionals. For more information on the ECDA Fellows Programme, please visit www.ecda.gov.sg/Pages/ECDA-Fellows.aspx.

Enhanced Support for Early Years

ECDA has launched an Early Years Development Framework (EYDF) Educators' Guide. Based on the EYDF, the Educators' Guide contains practical tips and suggested activities to help educators strengthen their interactions with infants, toddlers and nursery children. The EYDF Educators' Guide is also a useful resource for centre leaders, as they lead their teams in the reflection and application of best practices. Pre-schools can look forward to Continuing Professional Development sessions in 2018 to learn how to use this Guide effectively. ♥

One month into his new role as Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Desmond Lee made his debut appearance as host of the ECDA Early Childhood Conference (ECC) on 6 October 2017. He spoke to the 1,500-strong crowd of pre-school educators. "Our profession needs to grow and develop, so we can play our part in nurturing our future generation," said Mr Lee. In particular, he announced three initiatives "to strengthen teachers' leadership capabilities collectively".

Grooming Strong Leaders

Following the successful roll-out of the Professional Development Programme (PDP) for Teachers in 2016, and the PDP for Educators early this year, a new PDP for Leaders was launched at the conference.

MOVING UP THE PROFESSIONAL LADDER

THE FIRST BATCH OF PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR EDUCARERS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY APPOINTED.



Mr Tan Chuan-Jin noted that PDP(E) will equip educarers with valuable skills and strengthen their competencies

After 10 years in the early childhood (EC) sector, educator Ms Elfie Rohaiza Binte Ahmad is still very passionate about her work with children. Now, she wants to do more to develop herself professionally and further her career. To do so, the 33-year-old has enrolled in the Professional Development Programme for Educators, or PDP(E) for short, supported and nominated by her centre leader. PDP(E) is a three-year programme (see sidebar) that enables educators to hone their competencies and prepares them for larger job roles.

A total of 76 PDP(E) participants were appointed in July this year. "I signed up for PDP(E) to expand my knowledge and hone my skills. The programme will give me a greater professional edge, and also boost my confidence in working with parents and colleagues," says Ms Elfie.

The Institute of Technical Education graduate does not foresee any difficulty

in meeting the 180 programme hours required of the participants. Instead, she is glad for the flexibility to chart her own learning. Apart from a compulsory core training course, participants of PDP(E) can choose from a variety of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities. Ms Elfie is most excited about the "Showcase of Learning", as she feels it is a good opportunity to network and share with fellow educators.

At the inaugural PDP(E) appointment ceremony held on 28 July 2017 at the National Museum of Singapore, then-Minister for Social and Family Development Tan Chuan-Jin said, "PDP(E) will equip educators with knowledge and skills to develop respectful, responsive and reciprocal interactions with infants and toddlers." He also encouraged educators to see parents as partners and establish trusting relationships with them because "building strong families is the foundation of a stable society".

The PDP(E) is part of the overall effort to enhance the professional and career development of EC professionals, and is in line with the increasing focus on children's development in their early years. ♥



GOING ONE STEP FURTHER

WHAT IS PDP ABOUT?

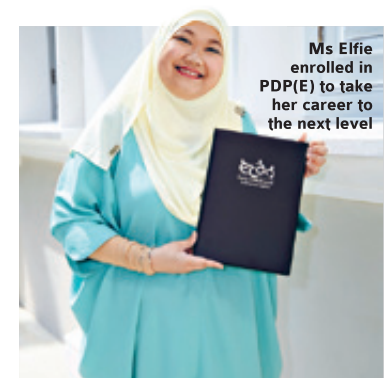
The Professional Development Programme for Educators, PDP(E), was introduced by ECDA in March 2017. The three-year structured programme is in line with the national SkillsFuture movement. Participants can:

- ▶ Receive compulsory core training.
- ▶ Participate in Communities of Practice to learn and exchange ideas and experiences with other educators.
- ▶ Be involved in a Showcase of Learning to share good practices
- ▶ Opt to choose CPD activities in a language they are comfortable with.
- ▶ Attain qualifications to teach wider age groups through the Teacher Training Programme Modules.
- ▶ Receive up to \$12,000 over three years upon completion of programme and service milestones.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Singaporean or Permanent Resident EY1/EY2/L1 educators, preferably with at least three years of relevant teaching experience

Find out more at [www.ecda.gov.sg/Pages/ECDA-PDP\(E\).aspx](http://www.ecda.gov.sg/Pages/ECDA-PDP(E).aspx) and look out for the next application window in early 2018.



Ms Elfie enrolled in PDP(E) to take her career to the next level