

GET ACTIVE FOR SHARP MINDS

Physical development helps lay the groundwork for our children's cognitive, language, social and emotional development. Neuroscience research shows that when children engage in physical activities, their motivation, memory, as well as the ability to focus, concentrate and learn improve.

I believe this is why our children are naturally active. They are looking for opportunities to learn and develop.

This is one reason why we are featuring outdoor learning at this year's Early Childhood Conference & Exhibition, which will be themed "Beyond the Classroom: Take Learning Outdoors", held on 13 and 14 September at Suntec City Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Do join us and get practical tips on how to take learning outdoors and get our children to be physically active, using learning opportunities in the community.

There are other opportunities for our children to go out and be active.

In support of the Singapore Bicentennial, the 5th edition of "Start Small Dream Big", a President's Challenge initiative, was launched in April under the theme "Learning from Our Past, Dream of Our Future".

This year, "Start Small Dream Big" aims to inspire our children to learn about Singapore's heritage and do their part in building a kind and caring society. Around 49,000 children from 820 centres will be participating in various community

projects. Thank you to all teachers and parents for their strong support of this movement.

Our early childhood teachers play a significant role in shaping the lives of our children in the early years. Let's celebrate and appreciate their passion, dedication and contributions. Please join me in wishing all our educators a happy Teachers' Day on 6 September!

Since joining ECDA in 2015, I have had the privilege to work with our partners to raise the quality, affordability and accessibility of preschools. It has been one of my most satisfying journeys both personally and professionally. I will be moving to the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, and Ms Jamie Ang will helm ECDA as Chief Executive from September. Like me, she is committed to ECDA's vision of a good start for every child.

In conclusion, let's continue to create opportunities for our children to be active, and lay the foundation to help them reach their full potential. As Maria Montessori once said, "Watching a child makes it obvious that the development of his mind comes through his movements."



09



10



12



13



18



02

CONTENTS

FOCUS

- 02 Let's Get Active**
The importance of physical development and how to create opportunities to move

EC LANDSCAPE

- 07 The Next Chapter**
ECDA's outgoing and incoming Chief Executives share their hopes and plans for the EC sector
- 08 Beyond The Classroom**
What to expect at the annual Early Childhood Conference this year

- 09 Look Who's Talking**
Nurturing children's interest and love for their mother tongues

- 16 Q&A**
Physical development is crucial to a child's holistic development

- 10 Future Forward**
This year's "Start Small Dream Big" movement gets a Bicentennial spin

- 11 Prep For Preschool Like A Pro**
A self-help tool for parents to search for preschools for their child

INNOVATION & RESEARCH

- 12 Budding Explorers**
Using sensory play to encourage infants to explore their environment

MY TEACHER, MY SCHOOL

- 13 All Natural Moves**
A yoga programme for children to build strength and calm minds
- 14 Thank You, Teacher!**
A special Teachers' Day tribute to honour educators

ASK THE EXPERTS

- 16 Q&A**
Physical development is crucial to a child's holistic development

- 18 The Fundamentals Of Life**
Basic movement skills that are essential for everyday activities and sports

- 21 Patriotic Popsicles**
Red-and-white treats in celebration of National Day

- 22 Bouquet of Blooms**
Surprise teachers with this potful of pencil flowers

WELLNESS

- 23 5 Places To Get Movin'**
Exercise and have fun as a family at these spots

MAILBAG

- 24 We've Got Mail!**
Parents share how they support their child's physical development

FUNTIMES

- 25 Colour The Icons**
Identify these famous Singapore landmarks

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