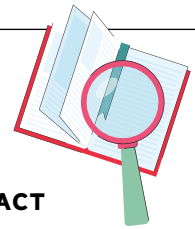


RAISING THE BAR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS REMARKABLE IMPACT
ON EDUCATOR TRAINING IN JUST FIVE YEARS.



The National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC) was set up by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in 2019. Fast forward five years, NIEC has emerged as the leading institution in the early childhood (EC) sector. With a faculty of more than 100 full-time staff and adjuncts, NIEC offers a comprehensive range of courses from certificates to post-diplomas that emphasise practical experiences and real-life scenarios.

To date, over 20,000 aspiring and in-service educators — including mid-career switchers — have undergone training at NIEC. “The training I received at NIEC has given me the knowledge and skills to align programme design by coordinating curriculum and instructional and assessment methods, and customising these to meet the needs of diverse learners,” says Ms Miura Tan, an EC and special education consultant and associate psychologist, who graduated with an

Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood Leadership. “I have also acquired valuable skills in human resource planning and project management, which enables me to lead and nurture teams.”

SHAPING THE EC LANDSCAPE TOGETHER

Working closely with ECDA, MOE and preschools, NIEC ensures that its pre-service and in-service training courses are of high quality and meet the sector’s evolving needs. For example, the EC training curriculum was recently enhanced based on the updated Nurturing Early Learners Framework and the Early Years Development Framework. NIEC has also launched courses in key areas such as inclusive practice, EC leadership and mother tongue language, while hosting outreach sessions at secondary schools and partnering with SkillsFuture Singapore to attract talent to the EC sector.

Other contributions by NIEC include:

- Training **KidSTART** practitioners on the Abecedarian approach to support children from at-risk and under-resourced families.
- Partnering with the National Institute of Education’s **Centre for Research in Child Development** on action research and translating findings into effective local practices.
- Collaborating with **KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital** to create books on developing social-emotional skills in young children, and the Early Childhood Holistic Outcomes (ECHO) Framework for early intervention professionals.

LOOKING AHEAD

EC educators can expect ongoing support from NIEC for professional development, peer support, and learning opportunities to stay updated on best EC practices and innovations. Plans include offering more specialised courses in key EC domains, expanding collaborations with stakeholders, and having a dedicated hub for EC educators to connect and collaborate with their peers.

Mrs Loke-Yeo Teck Yong, Director and Chief Executive Officer of NIEC, says, “Our goal is to inspire excellence and foster the development of the next generation of EC educators who are reflective practitioners, proactive in their professional development, and skilled at building relationships for the holistic development of all children.” ●

Find out more about NIEC and its courses for early childhood educators at niec.edu.sg.

