

DISCOVERY MATTERS!



their eyes to the world of plants and insects. Such explorations enable children to learn about the world around them, including our history and culture.

Despite the COVID-19 situation, I'm glad that we saw more than 71,000 children from over 1,050 preschools participating in the 'Start Small Dream Big' movement this year. With the theme 'Stay Connected, Make A Difference', the seventh edition of the movement inspires children to find creative ways to maintain social connections with the community while doing good. These connections strengthen the social fabric of Singapore and cultivate our children's discovery of the community around them.

Our early childhood educators play a key role in shaping our children's development. During the pandemic, despite many challenges, our educators continue to keep our children curious and learning through their ingenuity, perseverance and hard work.

As motivational writer William Arthur Ward aptly put it, "Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning." I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our educators for their dedication and wish them a happy Teachers' Day! And a happy Teachers' Day too, to all parents, our children's first teachers.

“Why is it like this? Why is it not like this? Why ...?” I'm sure many parents and educators find this a familiar refrain among young children. While these questions can sometimes verge on being exasperating, it is vital that we do not discourage our children from expressing their curiosity as this is how they discover the world around them. They learn by interacting with different people, and by observing different things and events happening in their day-to-day lives. Research tells us that curiosity stimulates learning, motivation and memory, among others.

Sparking the curiosity of young children can take place anytime, anywhere. For instance, shining a torch in the room can give many hours of wonder and fun, as children learn about light and shadows. A trip to the hawker centre helps children discover our rich food heritage, while a walk in the community garden opens

MS JAMIE ANG
Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)



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ON THE COVER

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Some photos in this issue were taken before the Circuit Breaker period, and feature children/adults without masks on.