# A Healthier Child is a Better Learner

ECDA Early Childhood Conference 5 October 2018

### **Presenters**

#### • Ms Mollie Seow, Deputy Director, Children and Youth Weight Management

Mollie Seow holds a Masters in Health Psychology from the University of Surrey, UK. She specialises in childhood weight management, providing counselling for overweight and severely underweight students. She also heads the development and implementation of school and community-based programmes.

#### • Dr Veronica Tay, Associate Consultant, Deputy Director, Student Health Centre

Dr Veronica Tay obtained her MBBS from the University of Singapore, Faculty of Medicine. She received the MOH postgraduate scholarship to pursue a Master in Public Health (NUS) in 1988. She heads the Student Health Centre, Health Promotion Board.

#### • Dr Lim Wan Yi, Associate Consultant, Deputy Director, School Dental Centre

Dr Lim Wan Yi obtained her BDS from the University of Singapore, Faculty of Dentistry and received the MOH postgraduate scholarship to pursue a degree in Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Paediatric Dentistry) at University of Melbourne. She heads the School Dental Centre, Health Promotion Board.

# What will we learn today?

The Learning Journey (30 Aug 18) and Workshop (5 Oct 18) aim to enable participants to:

- Understand the importance of preventive health services and programmes offered by HPB for the holistic development of the child
- Acquire practical knowledge and tips on how they can help children build healthy habits and behaviours from young (e.g. healthy eating, oral hygiene, myopia prevention) and in early detection
- Promote and share best practices
- Understand HPB's suite of pre-school health promotion programmes and resources to complement their health promotion efforts in schools

# **Outline of Workshop**

**Recap of Learning Journey on 30 Aug 18** 

Share and Learn

Other HPB Pre-school Health Promotion Programmes and Resources

Have FUN with the Pre-school Health Resources!

Reflections



### **Recap of Learning Journey at HPB on 30 Aug 18**

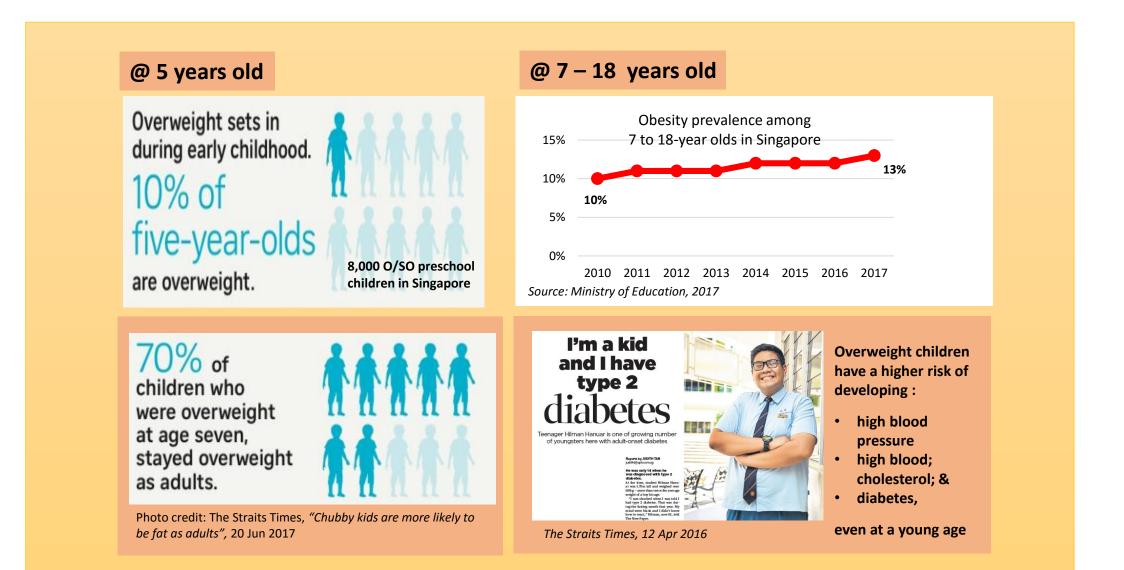
# **HPB's Child and Youth Health Strategy**



Educators

School Health Engagement Strategy

# Our children are getting bigger, and staying bigger



### **Risks and complications of childhood obesity**

HIGH BLOOD CHOLESTEROL

#### HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE





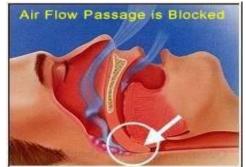






MUSCULOSKELETAL DISCOMFORT

#### OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA



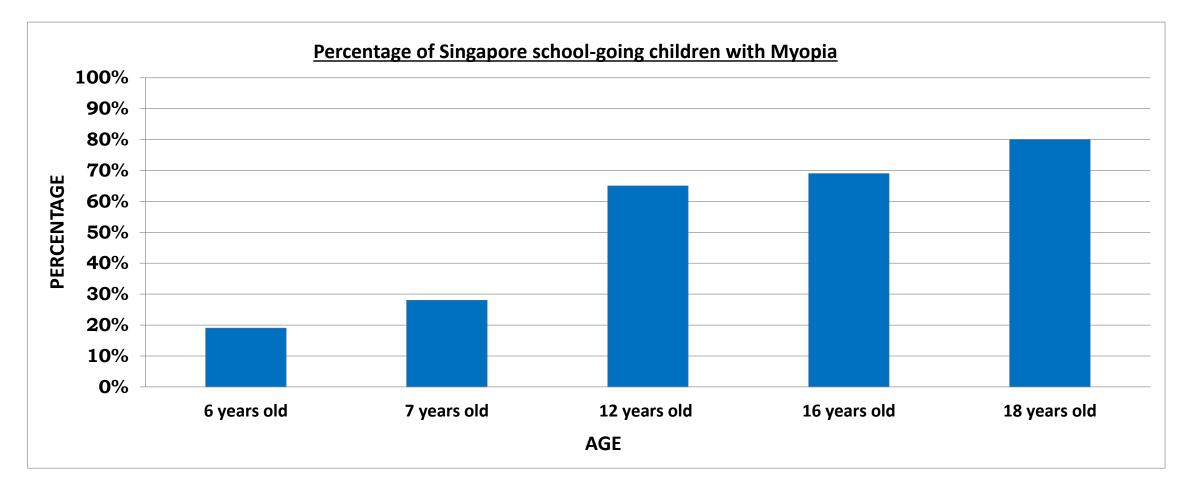


# **Healthy Weight Programmes**



# Myopia rate in Singapore school-going children

Singapore is among the countries with the highest prevalence of childhood myopia in seven to nine year olds, making a significant public health problem. By 2050, at least five million in Singapore will have myopia, fifteen per cent of the population are likely to develop <u>high myopia</u>. <sup>[1]</sup>



<sup>[1]</sup> extracted from Today Daily Focus published on 6 October,2016

Graph of percentage of Singapore school-going children with Myopia - HPB source

### Myopia at young age carries risk later

# Myopia at young age carries risk later

#### Study recommends outdoor activity for kids

#### Linette Lai

Getting myopia at a young age can set you up for worse myopia later in life, a study by the Singapore Eye Research Institute has found.

This means that parents should try their best to delay myopia in their children by making sure they spend time outdoors, said Professor Saw Seang Mei, who headed the study.

"We know that if you spend more time outdoors as a young child, you can prevent or delay myopia," said Prof Saw, who heads the myopia research group at the institute. She was speaking at a media briefing yesterday on the study's findings.

Doctors hypothesise that this could be because light outdoors is usually much brighter, triggering the release of a chemical known as retinal dopamine, which stops myopia from developing.

Prof Saw and her team recruited nearly 1,000 children aged between seven and nine over several years for the study, and followed up with them until they reached age II.

Those who were first diagnosed with myopia when they were very young - between three and six years old - ended up with high myopia of more than 500 degrees,

Singapore has one of the highest rates of myopia in the world. ST FILE PHOTO on average, by the time they were 11. On the other hand, those who started having the condition at age 10, when the condition had only a year to progress, had myopia of about 150 degrees on average.

"Once you have myopia, you are always myopic," said Prof Saw, who is also an epidemiology professor with the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at the National University of Singapore.

"The younger the child who has

#### Good eye habits

- Keep any reading ma least 30cm away from eyes and try to read in upright position inste lying down.
- Keep computer scree least 50cm away fron eyes, and adjust them minimise glare.
- Make sure the television
- screen is at least 2m away.
   Take a break from reading, watching television or using the computer every 30 to 40 minutes. Look out of the window at faraway objects and do eye exercises to relax the eves.
- Engage in more outdoor activities and make sure indoor activities take place with sufficient light.

"The younger the child who has myopia, her higher the chance for his final degree of myopia being high,.."

e highest rates of myopia in the world – approximately seven in 10 teenagers have the condition.

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The children in the study were part of a larger project called the Singapore Cohort Study of the Risk Factors for Myopia, which involved nearly 2,000 children. Some of them, who are in their 20s by now, are still being followed up to this day to find out how their conditions have developed.

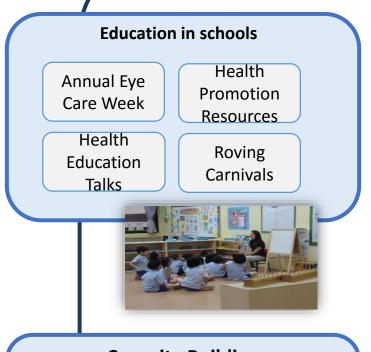
In an earlier study, Prof Saw and her team also found that having high myopia of more than 500 degrees puts adults at risk of issues such as cataracts, glaucoma and

".... having high myopia of more than 500 degrees put adults at risk of issues such as cataracts, glaucoma and myopia macular disease...that causes loss of vision"

linettel@sph.com.sg

### **Overview of National Myopia Prevention Programme**





**Capacity Building** i) Teachers – workshops, resources ii) Parents – workshop, resources





#### National Myopia Prevention Programme

- Vision screening
- Public Education

**Financial Assistance Scheme** i) Spectacles Vouchers Fund ii) Roving optical shop in school



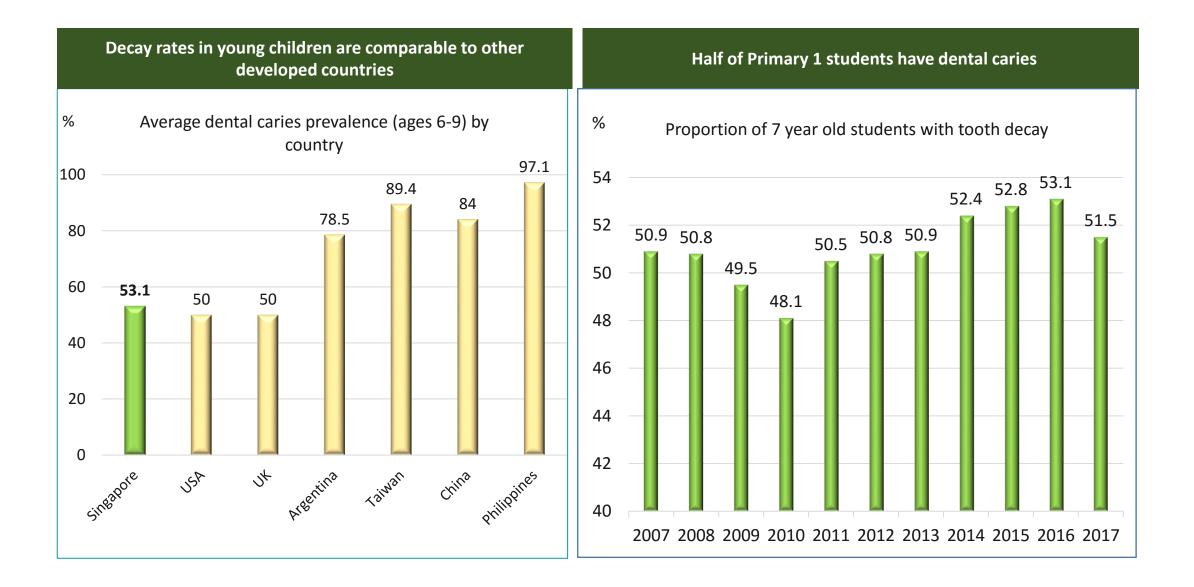
# **Early Detection** – vision Screening in schools



**Referrals** to ophthalmologists, optometrists & opticians



#### Dental caries in younger children is creeping up



### What happens when a child does not take care of baby teeth?

### **Severe Early Childhood Caries**







#### **Facial Swelling**

### **Oral Health Talks in Kindergarten**



### Oral Health Screening and Fluoride Therapy in Childcare Centres (N1 and N2 children)

#### Commenced in Jun 2017. Ongoing

# Target group: 3-to 4-year-old children in participating childcare centres





#### **Dental check -up**

#### Yearly follow-up with dental screening





Fluoride vanish application for children at risk of developing decay

## Tour to School Dental, Vision Screening and Nutrition Clinics



**School Dental Clinic** 

**Vision Screening Clinic** 

**Nutrition Clinic** 

### Learning practical ideas at Pit Stops

Pit Stop 1: Improving Pre-schoolers' Oral Health in Schools

• Learn tips on how to promote oral health in school.







#### Pit Stop 2: Guess how sweet I am

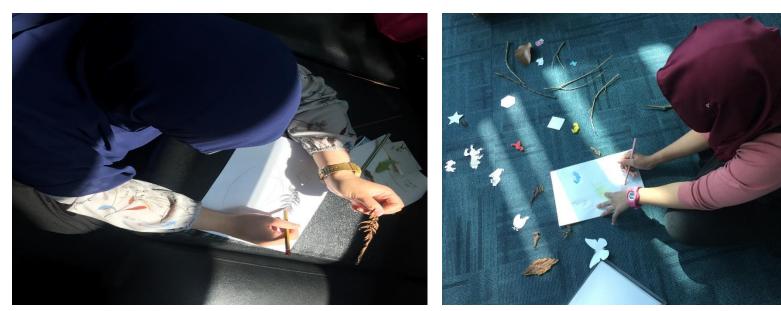
 Learn how much sugar is in the sweetened drinks and how to read labels.

### Learning practical ideas at Pit Stops

#### Pit Stop 3: Choose healthier hawker food when eating out

- Know how much fats are in the hawker food; and
- Teach students how to choose healthier hawker food.





#### Pit Stop 4: Keep Myopia at Bay, Go Outdoors and Play!

 Learn how to conduct interesting outdoor lesson and encourage students to move (gross motor activity) at the same time.

# Mini tasks assigned

Mini tasks to prepare for ECDA Early Childhood Conference 2018's concurrent workshop on 5 October 2018

• Conduct the task which you have been assigned with the students under your care in the month of September 18.

Mini task for Group 1: Improving Pre-schoolers' Oral Health in schools	Mini Task for Group 2: Guess how sweet I am	
Design an activity (through a game, song, story, skit, quiz, etc) to teach students the importance of oral care, how to take care of their teeth or the proper toothbrushing steps.	<ul> <li>Design an activity (through a game, song, story, skit, quiz, etc) to teach students the amount of sugar in the sweetened drinks.</li> <li>In the design of your activity, you may teach the following key messages:</li> <li>Drinking too much sweetened drinks can cause gain weight and tooth decay.</li> <li>Limit sweetened drinks to no more than 2 glasses a week.</li> <li>Drink water or plain milk. They are healthy choices!</li> </ul>	
Mini Task for Group 3: Choose healthier hawker food when dining out	Mini Task for Group 4: Keep Myopia at Bay, Go Outdoors to Play	
Design an activity (through a game, song, story, skit, quiz, etc) to teach students how to identify and choose healthier hawker food when eating out.	Design an activity to bring students outdoor to play.	
In the design of your activity, you may teach students to eat less of deep-fried and oily foods and go for healthier choices instead.		

## What you were told to do

- Conduct the mini tasks which you have been assigned with the students in your class in the month of **September 2018**. You may use the tips and activities learnt today.
- Share at the workshop on **5 October 2018** what and how you have conducted the mini task with your class. In your sharing, include the challenges and insights learnt (if any).
- Your sharing may take any of the following forms:
  - Poster with photographs, power point slides or video of how you have conducted the activity (e.g. students singing the song, skit done by students, the story telling session, etc)
  - $\checkmark\,$  Sing the song that you have composed
  - ✓ Demonstrate the game that you have developed
  - ✓ Tell the story you have written
  - ✓ Others



# Share and Learn

# Activity 1

In your group, share

- What you have conducted in class in Sep 18
- The challenges faced
- The insights learnt



Facilitators will invite one participant from each group to share what he/she has done with the class.

### **Best Practices**

(1)

Best Practice on Fun Outdoor Activities from various Pre-schools



\*Reference: Eye Care Week 2018 – Activities (Emailed to all pre-schools)

Best Practice from HMPP Pre-schools

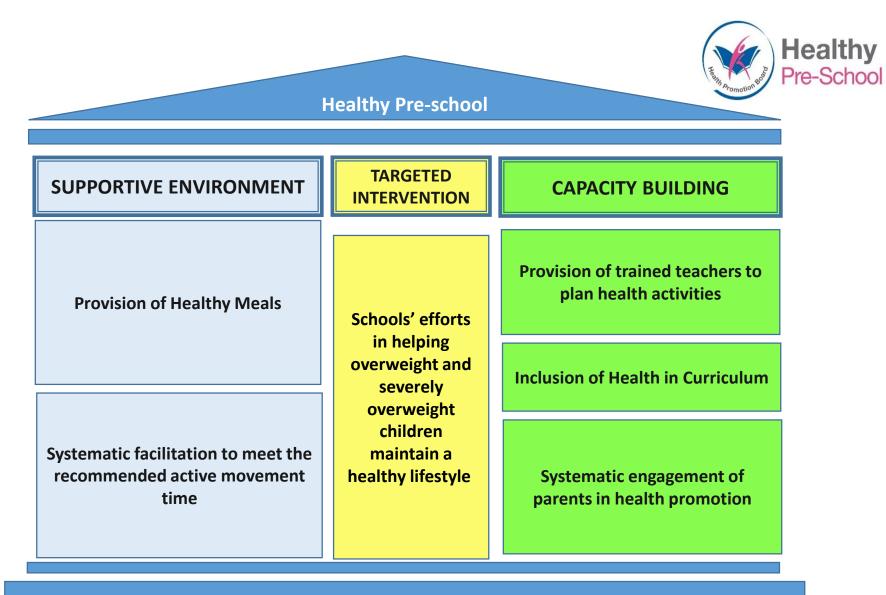
(2)





# Other HPB Pre-school Health Promotion Programmes and Resources

### The Healthy Pre-school (HPS) Accreditation Framework establishes a health promoting environment through three pillars



#### https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/1267/healthy-pre-school-accreditation-framework

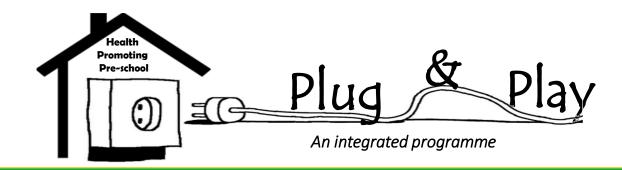
### What's in it for pre-schools?

	Healthy Pre-School Tiers	
Benefits	Basic	Platinum
Decal	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Certificate		$\checkmark$
Logo Use		$\checkmark$
HPB Plug and Play series		$\checkmark$



\*Certificate is valid for 2 years

### **Plug & Play Series for Healthy Pre-schools**



#### Healthy Lifestyle

• Healthy Food Adventure to educate students on picking healthier choices and preparing healthy meals

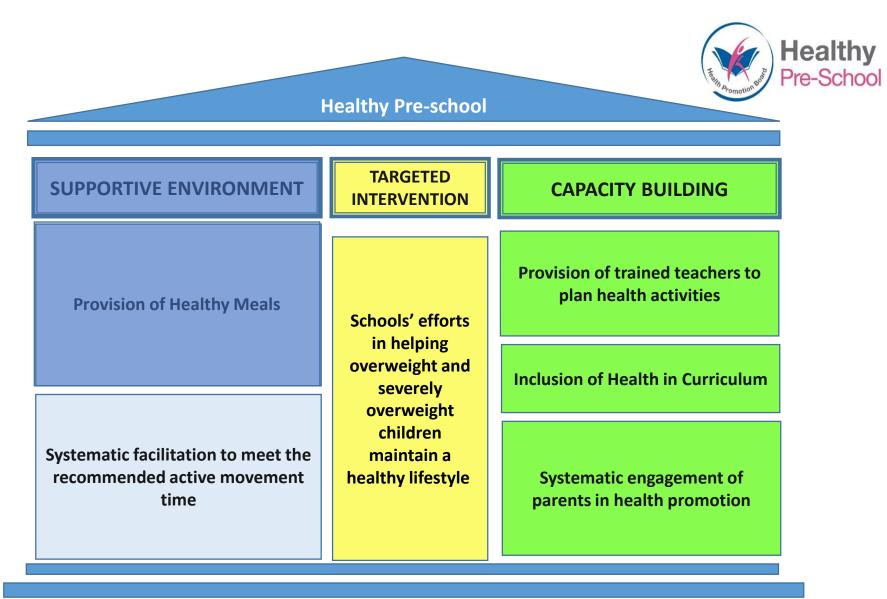
- Healthy Lifestyle Puppet skit to educate students on leading a healthy lifestyle, and eating according to "My Healthy Plate"
- Understanding Social Emotional Development in Young Children teachers' training



Pillar 1

# Creating a Supportive Environment in Pre-Schools

### The Healthy Pre-school (HPS) Accreditation Framework establishes a health promoting environment through three pillars



#### https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/1267/healthy-pre-school-accreditation-framework

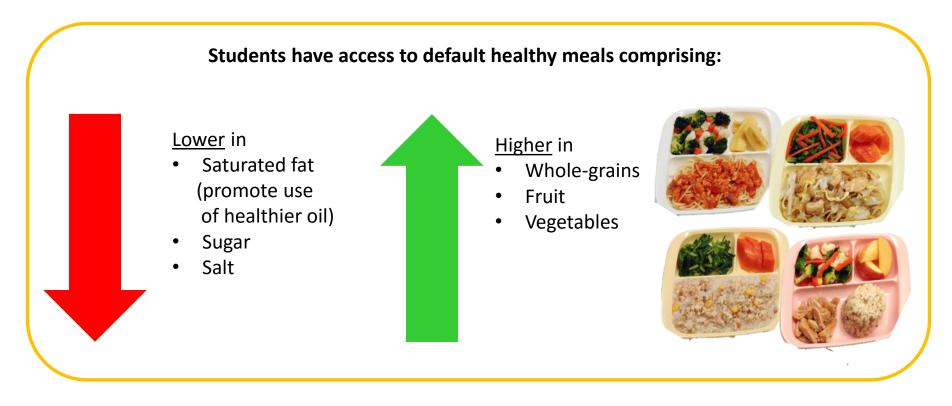
#### Healthy Meals in Pre-schools Programme (HMPP) aims to improve the quality of meals to preschoolers and shapes their food preferences from an early age

#### **Objective:**

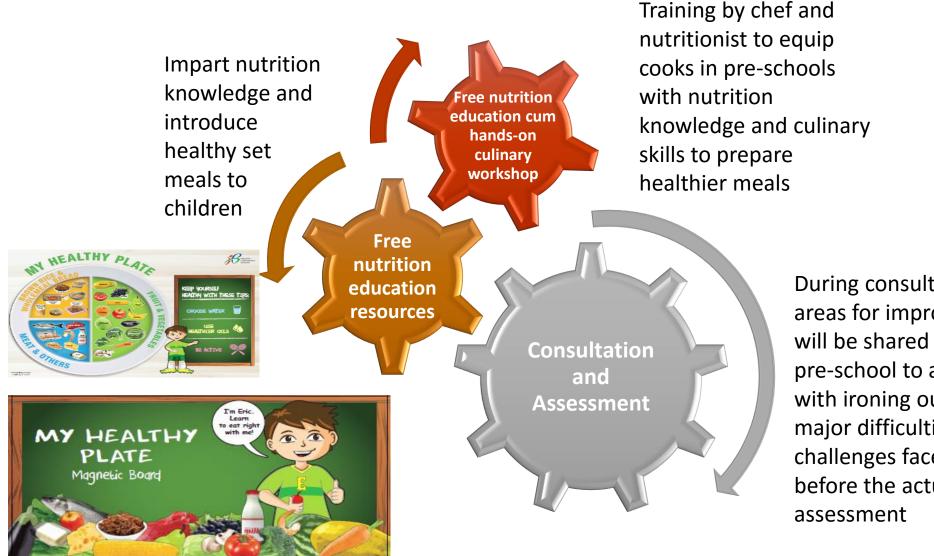
To ensure students consume healthy balanced set meals in pre-schools with the inclusion of four food groups, whole-grains and removal of deep fried, pre deep fried and preserved food.

#### **Programme Criteria:**

- 8 Food Service criteria
- 8 Nutrition Education criteria



### HMPP Cycle – Capacity Building, Consultation and Assessment



During consultation, areas for improvement will be shared with the pre-school to assist with ironing out the major difficulties and challenges faced before the actual

### **Pre-schools are supported with Culinary Training**

#### (1) Basic Culinary Training



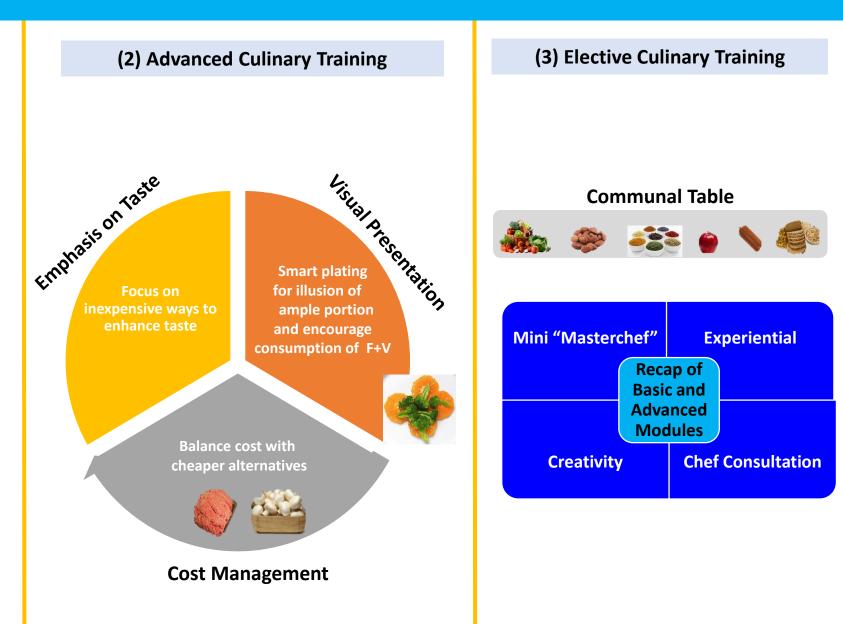
Nutrition Education by Dietician/Nutritionist



Cooking Demo by Chef



Hands-on Cooking using Healthier Recipes

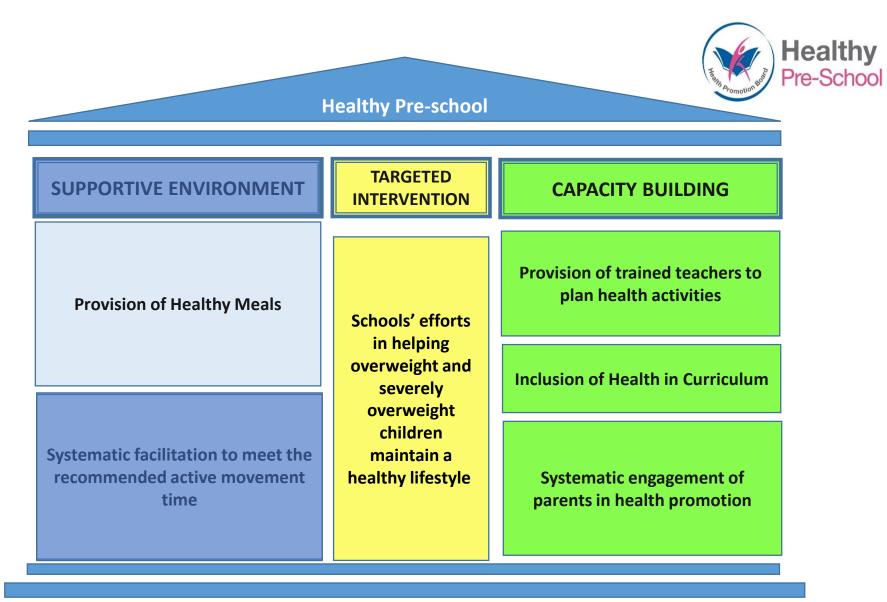


#### **Fun with Food Art Recipes!**

- Food art can be an **engagement tool** to excite both parent and child to prepare and enjoy healthier meals.
- HPB has developed food art recipes that can be easily prepared at home or assembled in a classroom setting with simple ingredients for gourmet lessons.
- You can scan the QR code on the recipe cards to view all the 30 – 45 second food art videos on HPB youtube page.



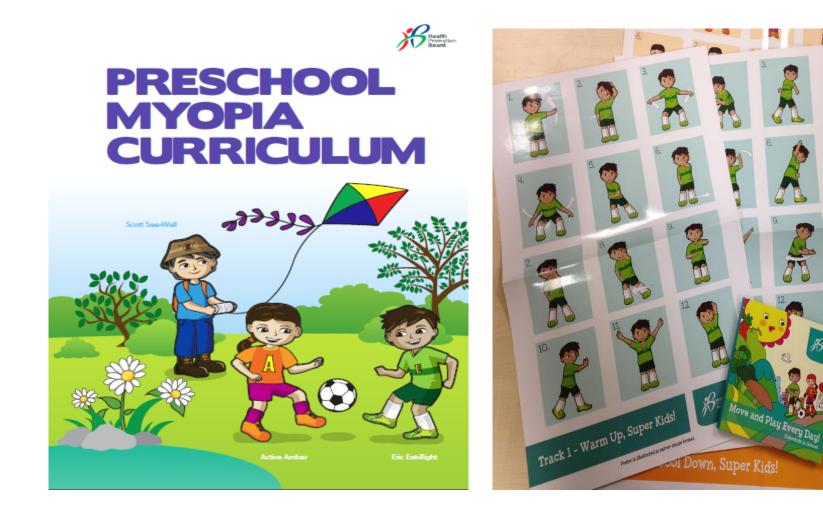
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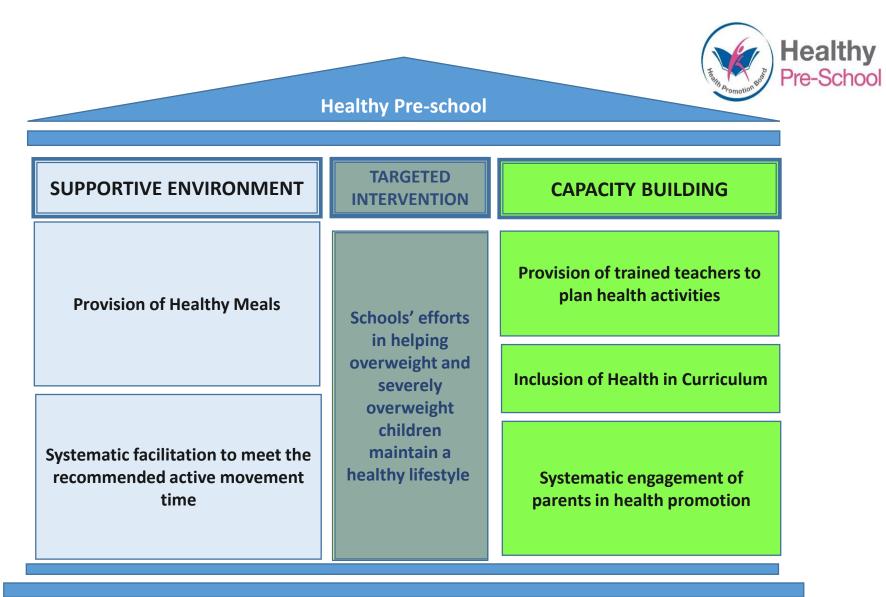
### Systematic facilitation to meet recommended Gross Motor Activity time

**Resources to help centres increase GMA** 



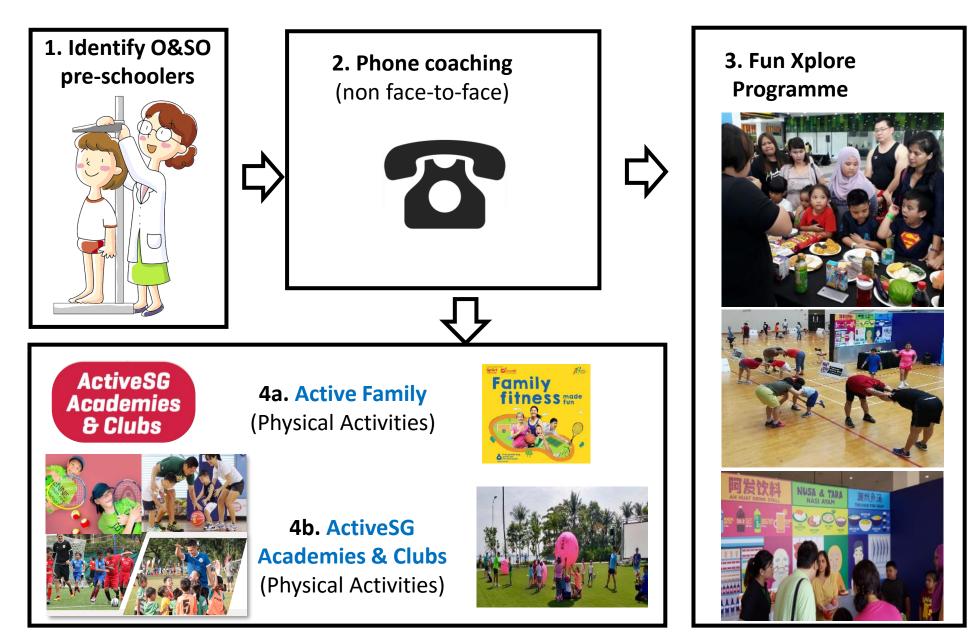


## Providing Targeted Intervention to Support Health at Risk Children



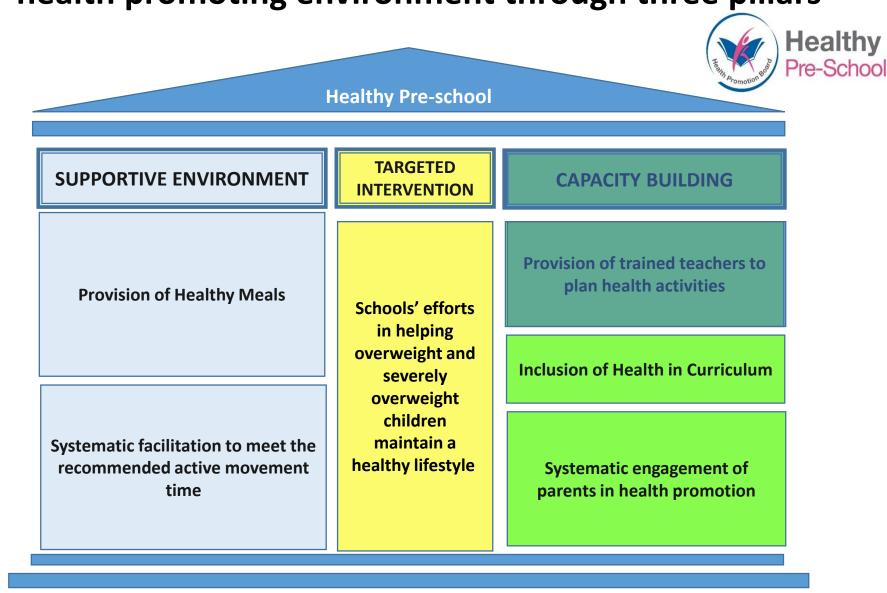
**Healthy Weight Programmes** 



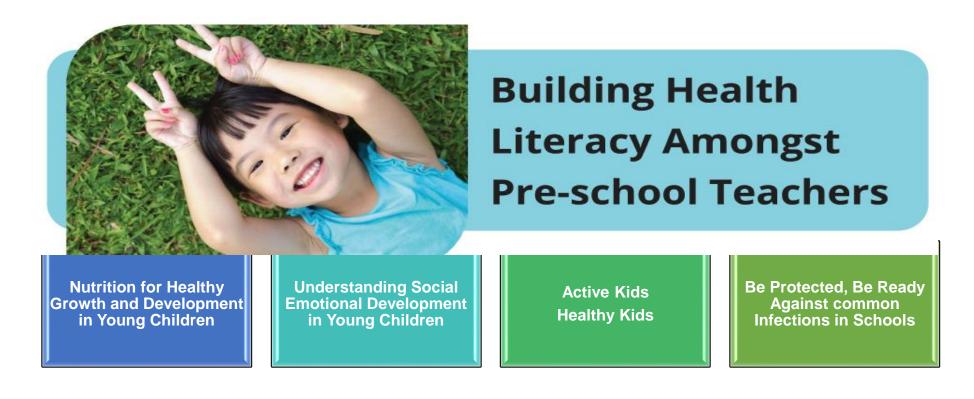




## **Building Capacity of Stakeholders**



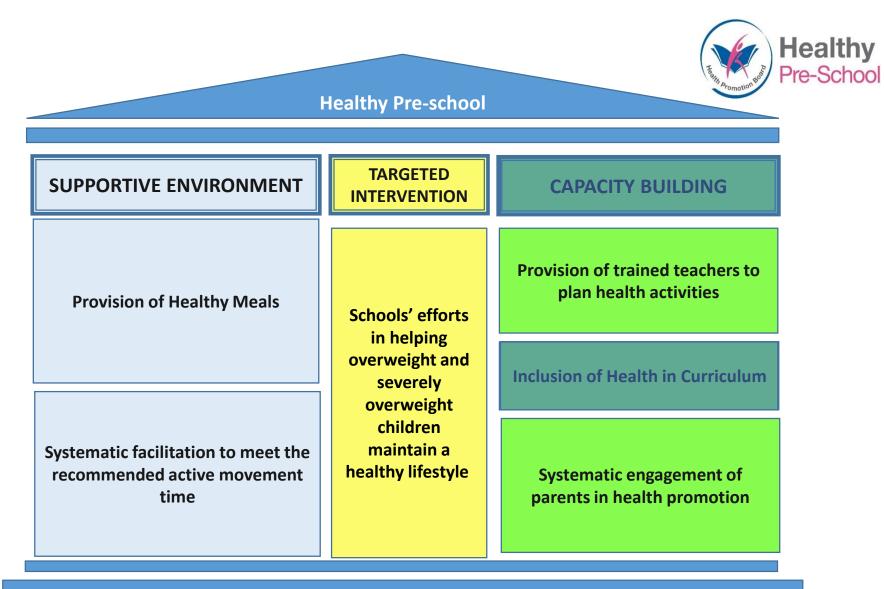
### **Building health literacy amongst pre-school teachers**





Next Steps: Managing the Transition to Primary School

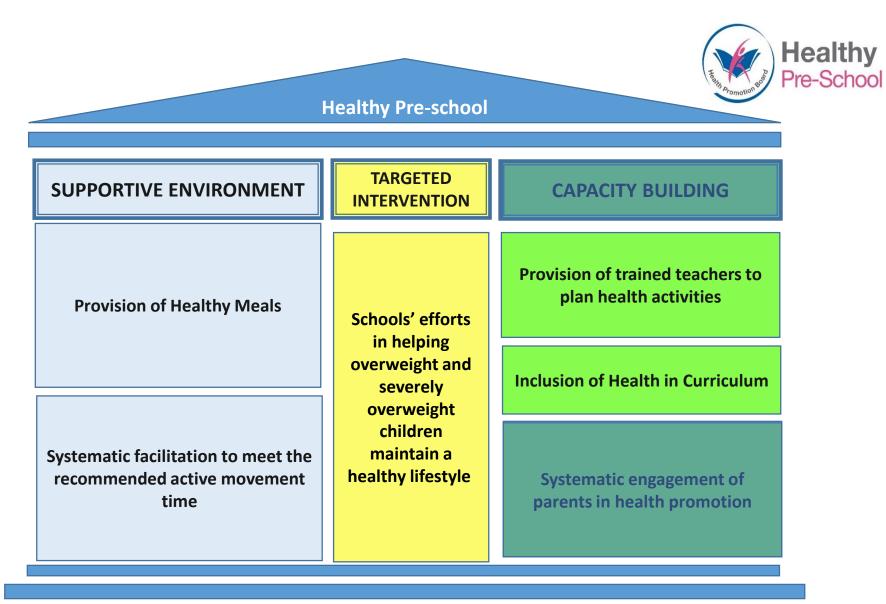






## **Building health in Curriculum**





### Parent engagement in health promotion

Parent Toolkit







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#### HealthHub – Parents For Life



### **Parent workshops**

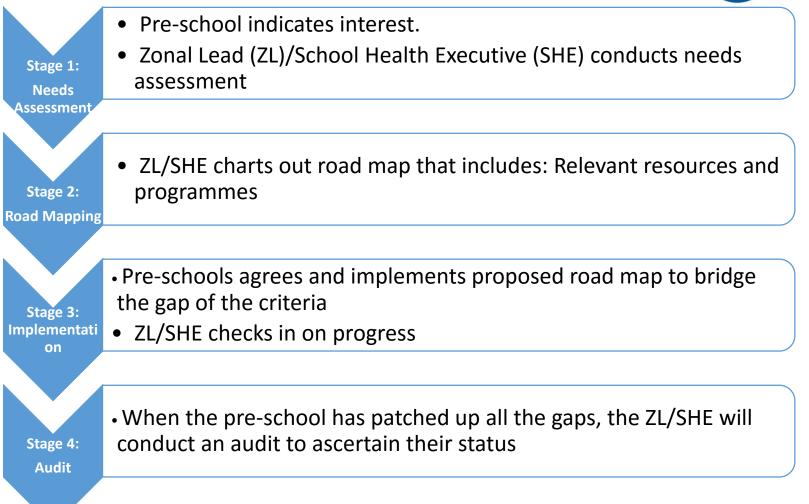


Eat Right, Get Moving (Nutrition, Physical Activity) Active Together (Physical Activity)

Colours of the Mind (Mental Health)

# Let's work together to nurture our young with the best healthy pre-school environment







## Have FUN with the Pre-school Health Resources!

## Activity 2

We have brought some pre-school health resources for your reference.

Have **FUN** looking through them!



## Reflections

## **Pair and Share**

In pairs, take 5 min to share 2 key learning points from today's workshop.

Facilitators will invite a few participants to share their thoughts.

## HPB and pre-schools' partnership is vital to ensure children cultivate healthy habits from young

Research has shown that a health promoting school contributes to better health and education outcomes. Health promotion in early childhood is paramount for the prevention of infectious diseases, developing good health habits in childhood – particularly on nutrition, physical activity and social-emotional development.

As students spend a large part of their daily time in schools, educators play an important role in helping children build healthy habits and behaviours from young.

Let's work together towards nurturing **Healthier Children, Better Learners**!



## **Contact Details**

For enquiries on pre-school programmes/resources, please contact:

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Ms Siti Salwa	Senior Executive	6435 3946	Siti_Salwa_SALLEH@hpb.gov.sg	South East
Ms Celine Ang	Executive	6435 3278	Celine_ANG_from.TP@hpb.gov.sg	North West
Mr Chew Swee Seng	Senior Manager	6435 3056	Chew_Swee_Seng@hpb.gov.sg	South West

## **Thank You!**