

Keep Calm and Lead On

For EC Leaders by EC Leaders

Design Thinking for Curriculum Leadership: Mapping Insights to Action

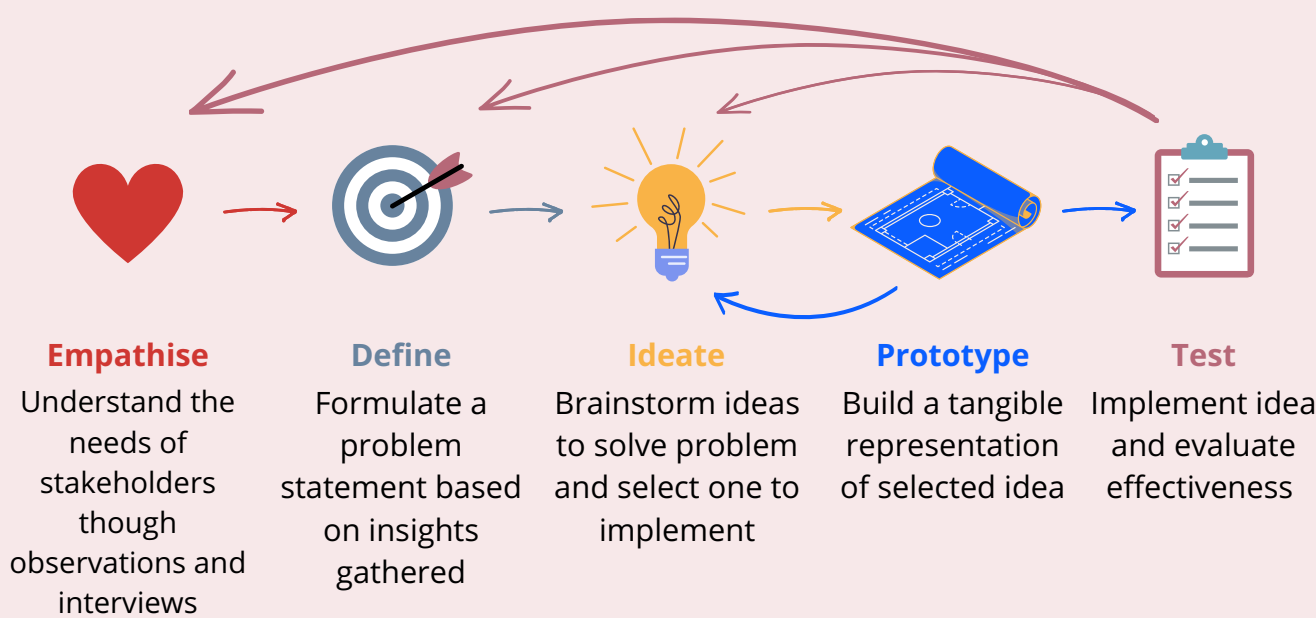
Curriculum leadership is one of the most important roles for centre leaders to help their educators improve teaching and learning in their preschools.

Through her **Inquiry-Based Action Plan (IBAP)*** Project, ECDA Fellow Ms Seri Rahayu Ariff (Manager for Development & Learning Support, E-Bridge Pre-school Pte Ltd) equipped leaders with skills to collaborate with educators in designing novel solutions to improve teaching practices that benefit the children.



Framework

Using the Design Thinking Process, leaders were guided to collaborate with educators to devise stakeholder-centric innovative solutions. The non-linear and iterative nature of the Design Thinking Process allows the flexibility for continuous refinement and improvement of ideas to reach the best solution.



Design Thinking Process

Case Study

Ms Chua Li Qing Jasmine, Programme & Quality Manager of Agape Little Uni. by Busy Bees, shared her journey of collaborating with all Agape Little Uni's Centre Directors to support an organisation-wide curriculum alignment and upskill educators to enable a coherent quality learning experience for the children.

Empathise & Define

Jasmine and the Centre Directors identified the need to provide more support for educators in designing and implementing lessons aligned with learning outcomes, and ensuring consistent quality across the organisation. They therefore defined the problem statement - "How can we align the curriculum across Agape Little Uni centres and equip educators with the skills to implement the curriculum effectively?"



Ideate & Prototype

Among other ideas such as learning journeys and mentoring programmes, the Centre Directors decided on Meet and Plan sessions to support the educators



in curriculum and lesson planning. The team, comprising a diverse group of personnel, enhanced and standardised the curriculum and lesson plan templates based on Agape's inquiry-based pedagogical approach.

Test

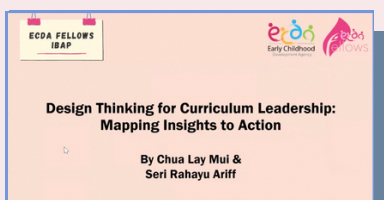
Using the enhanced templates, the Centre Directors guided educators to formulate clearly-defined and meaningful learning objectives, effective guiding questions, and engaging activities which resonated with Agape's teaching and learning philosophy. After rounds of feedback and revisions across two Meet and Plan sessions, the educators produced lesson plans and curriculum webs for the next two terms and refreshed their skills in executing inquiry-based learning. A chatgroup was also created for educators to share ideas and gather insights to their challenges easily.



Jasmine (*far-right*) collaborated with Mdm Lee Chin Yen/District Manager and Project Heads Ms Eunice Lim/Programme Specialist and Ms Louise/Centre Director (*from left*), to enhance the templates.

The process of coming together and working towards a common goal sparked a stronger culture of learning in the organisation. This was evident in the dynamic exchange of feedback among Centre Directors and educators during the Meet and Plan sessions, and educators taking more initiative in planning and implementing the curriculum.

Video Resources



IBAP Project Introduction by ECDA Fellows



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to watch the video!

*About the Inquiry-Based Action Plan (IBAP) Project

The IBAPs are evidence-based projects conducted by ECDA Fellows to guide and equip EC leaders with knowledge and skills in specific EC areas. With the Fellows' coaching, EC leaders are given opportunities to implement what they have learnt and improve practices in their centres.