

SUPPORTING *Aspirations* of Pre-school Teachers

ECDA appoints the pioneer batch of pre-school teachers under the new Professional Development Programme.



Minister of Social and Family Development Mr Tan Chuan-Jin with some of the pre-school teachers who have started their PDP programme.

THE FIRST BATCH of 138 pre-school teachers

commenced a three-year Professional Development Programme (PDP) in May 2016.

They will go through a 180-hour structured programme over three years. Under the programme, teachers will acquire and deepen their knowledge and skills through centre-based projects and module courses in teaching and leadership conducted by Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic and UniSIM. Credits earned from some modular courses may subsequently be counted towards the attainment of an early childhood-related tertiary qualification.

The PDP supports the career aspirations of pre-school educators with professional development opportunities and a structured career progression pathway. Under the programme, pre-school teachers with the potential to take on larger job roles can receive milestone cash awards of up to \$12,000. ECDA

EDUCARERS... ARE AT THE HEART OF QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION.

//Mr Tan Chuan-Jin
ON UPCOMING PDP FOR LEADERS AND EDUCARERS

has set aside \$1.7 million for the cash awards for this batch of PDP participants over the next three years.

Minister for Social and Family Development Tan Chuan-Jin, who spoke at the appointment ceremony at National Gallery Singapore (NGS) on 4 May, told pre-school teachers that the PDP, along with other programmes, will support the important work they are doing in shaping the future of our young, and ultimately in many ways our children will benefit.

The PDP for leaders and that for educators will be rolled out over the next two years. "Through these, educators will be able to look forward to even more professional development opportunities at every stage of their careers. You are the heart of quality pre-school education," said Mr Tan.

Mr Tan added that ECDA is also exploring partnerships beyond the early childhood sector to support the education of pre-schoolers. To this end, ECDA is also working with NGS to develop a series of learning programmes for young children, which will

feature storytelling sessions, studying of gallery artwork, and other hands-on activities.

Educators will be able to access NGS resources such as the Keppel Centre for Art Education. They can also look forward to a resource kit to plan enriching activities on Singapore's history, architecture and art. This kit will be uploaded to the ECDA's Grow@ Beanstalk portal by the end of the year. ♥



Pre-school teachers at the event.