

# Q & A

## COLLABORATING WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD (EC) PROFESSIONALS AND THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT.



For Parents



**How can we tap on community resources to support children's holistic development?**

**Penny Quek:** Children grow up as a part of the community. Their observations of how others interact or relate with the community help strengthen their ties and connections with the community.



► **Invite families and communities to donate materials such as egg cartons and empty bottles.**

This not only helps centres to minimise costs, but also helps children to develop creative thinking skills by using these materials in atypical ways. They learn to innovate resourcefully to transform trash into 'treasure'. Children also develop a sense of responsibility towards their environment and become more civic conscious.



**Character is caught rather than taught. What you say and do as a parent contributes to your child's character development.**

Mrs Ang-Oh Chui Hwa

► **You can also invite people in your neighbourhood such as traffic wardens and cleaners to share about their roles and responsibilities.**

It will help children appreciate and respect the work they do and their contributions to the community.



For Educators



**How can I work with my child's pre-school to contribute towards her character development?**

**Ang-Oh Chui Hwa:** Character is caught rather than taught. What you say and do as a parent contributes to your child's character development. You can talk to your child's teacher to find out the pre-school's plans for character development and the values upheld by the centre.

Discuss these values with your child. Model and practise these in everyday life to help your child appreciate and embody them. This is necessary as children will regard these values positively when the home supports their learning. Another way you can contribute as a parent is to volunteer to read stories on character building and values in your child's class. Your willingness to take time to volunteer will demonstrate to your child that it is also important to share your time and skills with others.



## ASK THE EXPERTS



👤 **MRS ANG-OH CHUI HWA**, the Principal of Far Eastern Kindergarten, has been in the EC sector for over 25 years. Appointed an ECDA Fellow in April 2015, she believes that character, compassion and communication are important cornerstones of children's development.

👤 **MS PENNY QUEK** is Lead Principal with PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Nee Soon East Blk 223 (KN), with more than 10 years of experience in the sector. She is a strong believer of community engagement and is also an ECDA Awards 2016 winner in the Outstanding Early Childhood Leader category.