



CREAM OF THE CROP

EXEMPLARY EDUCARERS, TEACHERS, LEADERS AND CENTRES GOT THEIR MUCH-DESERVED RECOGNITION AT THE 2017 ECDA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.

Since its launch in 2013, the annual ECDA Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Development has been the high point of the Early Childhood Conference year-on-year.

On 6 October 2017, at the 5th ECDA Awards, we celebrated the achievement of exemplary educators and centres for their professional excellence. Educarers, teachers and leaders cheered their winning peers enthusiastically as the latter's names were announced. Giving out the prestigious awards at the Suntec Convention Centre was Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Desmond Lee. Minister Lee congratulated the winners for excelling in their teaching and learning, and for innovative practices in the early childhood sector.

This year, two new categories — the 'Promising Awards' and the 'Roll of Honour for Early Childhood Innovation Mentor Centre' (see Page 10 on what the four Mentor Centres have to say) — were introduced. The 'Promising Awards' category was introduced to recognise and motivate early childhood professionals who show strong potential for professional excellence early in their careers. The winners had been chosen for their interactions and relationships with children, their curriculum and pedagogical practices,

their professional standards, as well as the efforts to partner and collaborate with families and the community (see box). Overall, 24 early childhood professionals and centres received the 2017 ECDA Awards (see sidebar for list of winners).

OF POTENTIAL AND PROMISE

Winners of the inaugural Promising Awards category talk about their aspirations.



Ms Gerene Lee

Winning the Promising Early Childhood Educarer Award affirms my passion to teach and help children find joy in learning. To me, an educarer must have the ability to love and respect children as individuals with their unique strengths and interests. We all have moments when the day's activities don't go as planned, or when children don't respond well to certain classroom management techniques. When this happens, I try to do things in a different way or seek advice from my colleagues.

Gerene Lee, Learning Vision @ Work Pte Ltd (Nanyang Polytechnic) (Promising Early Childhood Educarer)



Ms Jazlyn Choo

JOB WELL DONE!

Hearty congratulations to all the winners of the ECDA Awards 2017:

PROMISING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCARER AWARD

▶ Lee Si Min Gerene
Learning Vision @ Work Pte Ltd (Nanyang Polytechnic)

PROMISING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER AWARD

▶ Jazlyn Choo
My First Skool at Blk 209 Ang Mo Kio

PROMISING EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER AWARD

▶ Dawn Chua
My First Skool at Blk 55 Toa Payoh

OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCARER AWARD

▶ Nur Farhana Binte Abdul Razak
E-Bridge Pre-School Pte Ltd (Yishun)

▶ Zhao Yilin
The Ascension Kindergarten

OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER AWARD

▶ Jane Mayriel Singh
The Little Skool-House International (By-The-Vista)

OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER AWARD

▶ Neo You Xian Gillian
My First Skool at Blk 209 Ang Mo Kio

▶ Doreen Lim Yen Lee
PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Cashew

OUTSTANDING CENTRE FOR TEACHING & LEARNING AWARD

▶ Living Sanctuary Kindergarten

▶ My First Skool at Blk 245 Bishan

EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION AWARD (DISTINCTION)

▶ PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Nanyang Blk 922
Project Title: Speech Choir

▶ The Caterpillar's Cove Child Development and Study Centre @ Jurong East
Project Title: Strategies for Thinking: Fostering Toddler Inquiry through Provocations

EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION AWARD (MERIT)

▶ Blossom Educare Centre
Project Title: What's News?

▶ MY World @ Ang Mo Kio
Project Title: 'I Spy with My Arty Eyes'

EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION AWARD (COMMENDATION)

▶ My First Skool at Blk 140 Serangoon North
Project Title: "I feel, I show, I express": Promoting Socio Emotional Expressions through Dramatisation

▶ My First Skool at Blk 140 Serangoon North
Project Title: Questioning Strategies to Promote Curiosity and Learning

▶ PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Whampoa Blk 85
Project Title: Cookery

▶ PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Sembawang Blk 789
Project Title: Our Young Explorers

▶ St. Paul's Church Kindergarten
Project Title: Edible Plants in a Nostalgic Garden

▶ The Little Skool-House International Pte Ltd - At OCBC Centre
Project Title: Children's Beautiful Dream Garden

ROLL OF HONOUR FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION MENTOR CENTRE AWARD

▶ Odyssey, The Global Preschool (Fourth Avenue)

▶ Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Kindergarten

▶ St. James' Church Kindergarten (Harding)

▶ The Ascension Kindergarten

BE INSPIRED

Interested to know what drives the ECDA Award winners to strive towards professional excellence? Be motivated and moved by their inspiring words in these videos at <http://bit.ly/ECDA-Awards2017-Video>.



Ms Dawn Chua

It is a great honour to be the recipient for the Promising Early Childhood Teacher Award. Winning this award motivates me to further enrich the experiences for both the children and their families, and also challenge my own professional boundaries. I find it important for teachers to be creative in exploring various strategies to help children learn. Having children work in groups will also develop their problem-solving skills. As teachers, we should always be willing to try over and over again.

Jazlyn Choo, My First Skool at Blk 209 Ang Mo Kio (Promising Early Childhood Teacher)

I believe strongly in instilling good morals in young children, and in respecting all cultures. Every child needs to be treated with love, affection and respect. I care more about developing the whole child than focusing solely on the academics. My aspiration is to continue building teams that are strong professionally, highly cohesive and competent. My wish is for all new leaders to persevere and pursue their passion in early childhood. Don't give up on what you really want to; until the day you realise your dreams.

Dawn Chua,
My First Skool at Blk 55 Toa Payoh (Promising Early Childhood Leader)

