

Mr Chan Chun Sing

# More Is More

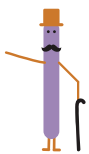
Educators and parents can look forward to more support by the Government as announced at the Early Childhood Conference 2014.



## More Initiatives

Guest-of-Honour at the Early Childhood Conference (ECC) 2014, Minister for Social and Family Development

Mr Chan Chun Sing, announced three initiatives to develop and recognise Early Childhood (EC) professionals at each stage of their careers.



A structured competency-based career pathway for the EC sector will be developed. This will

take into consideration the EC professionals' competencies and not just their qualifications. ECDA will partner the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) to work with sector partners to develop and adopt such a framework for the EC sector, so as to create more opportunities for educators to grow and advance in their careers.



More development opportunities for EC professionals at different stages of their careers will be provided. For example,

8 Beanstalk

internships for trainee teachers pursuing their Polytechnic full-time Diploma as well as the ITE Higher Nitec in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) will be enhanced. The modular Polytechnic Continuing Education and Training (CET) ECCE diploma will also recognise prior training and competencies gained on-the-job by in-service professionals, which will reduce the overall course hours if they choose to upgrade to a diploma. Selected modules will also be offered in bite-sized modules to help them balance work and professional upgrading.



EC professionals who have demonstrated high levels of leadership and professional expertise will be appointed as

ECDA Fellows. They will serve as role models, drive quality improvements in the sector and develop a fraternity of fellow professionals.

## More Resources

On day two of the conference Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education

Ms Indraneel Rajah announced new initiatives to provide parents and EC professionals with more resources to nurture pre-school children. These include workshops, new parenting and curriculum resources, and enhancements to the Singapore Pre-School Accreditation Framework (SPARK).

ECDA will work with centres to introduce hands-on, interactive workshops for parents. The workshops will enable EC professionals to share their experience and expertise with parents. Parents can also use these platforms to exchange ideas and techniques with educators to better support the diverse needs of their children.

The Ministry of Education also launched the Chinese, Malay and Tamil versions of the Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) Framework for Mother Tongue Languages (MTLs) to support mother-tongue pre-school teachers.

ECDA will also introduce a new Commendation Category for SPARK-certified centres in 2015 to recognise pre-schools for their quality achievements, as well as to provide parents with better information in the selection of pre-schools. The new Commendation category will be awarded to centres with strong teaching and learning practices.



Ms Indraneel Rajah