

THE ECDA FELLOWS programme is one of ECDA's key initiatives to expand opportunities for leaders in the early childhood profession to upgrade and develop their careers. ECDA will appoint a select group of exemplary early childhood professionals with high levels of leadership and professional expertise as ECDA Fellows. They will drive quality improvements in the sector and develop the fraternity of early childhood professionals. With ECDA's support, ECDA Fellows will take on sector-level roles, primarily in the areas of Professional Development, Curriculum Leadership and Sector Partnerships. This is on top of their existing roles in their organisations. ECDA hopes that the ECDA Fellows will guide and uplift the quality in the early childhood sector to ensure a good start for every child.

ECDA Fellows must possess four key qualities. First, they must demonstrate deep professional expertise in teaching and learning, and foster creativity and innovation to establish best practices in early childhood education. Second, they must display strong leadership in building a culture of professionalism, collaboration, trust and teamwork among the early childhood fraternity. Third, they must build a culture of lifelong learning through continuing professional development and growth. Last but not least, ECDA Fellows must develop

An ECDA Fellow is someone who has reached the pinnacle of your career and who is prepared to contribute to the sector beyond your immediate centre, someone who is deep in knowledge and experience, someone who is prepared to mentor the younger principals, the upcoming early childhood educators, someone who is prepared to share your years of experience to guide the sector along; and through your efforts, we hope to drive up the quality of the sector.

//Minister for Social and Family Development Chan Chun Sing at ECDA's Early Childhood Conference 2014

partnerships and networks to harness resources for sustained impact and effective implementation.

ECDA Fellows will raise the quality of the early childhood profession and sector in three key areas:

1 ECDA Fellows will lead sector-wide professional development programmes and initiatives. These include the development of induction and mentoring structures and programmes, and leading Professional Learning Communities in areas such as Centre Leadership, Staff Development, Teaching & Learning and Action Research.

2 ECDA Fellows will drive pedagogical excellence, through efforts such as guiding preschools in the design and development of centre-based curricula as well as the implementation of innovative teaching and learning practices.

3 ECDA Fellows will partner ECDA in programme implementation and in establishing strategic partnerships at the sector-level with key stakeholders in the field. These include collaborating with local Institutes of Higher Learning and centres to enhance Teaching & Learning practices, speaking at ECDA-supported/organised events, and guiding centres in their SPARK-certification journey.

ECDA Fellows will be appointed for a three-year term¹ in the first instance, and must serve 100 hours per year as defined by ECDA. Upon satisfactory completion of their responsibilities, ECDA Fellows will receive an annual Service Recognition Allowance of S\$9,000 to recognise their contributions to the sector. ECDA Fellows will be given professional development opportunities, including a milestone course. Interested applicants can submit their complete applications to ECDA from October to 1 December 2014. For more details, visit ECDA's website or email us at contact@ecda.gov.sg. ♥

¹ This will be subject to confirmation upon the first year of service.

Expanding leadership opportunities

The ECDA Fellows programme recognises early childhood sector leaders and professionals who demonstrate foresight, passion and innovation.

