



ON THE HOME FRONT

The KidSTART Home Visitation Programme is one of three components of KidSTART. Together, they build an ecosystem of support around the child involving the wider community and preschools.

→ KidSTART Home Visitation

Through home visits, KidSTART workers support parents with practical knowledge and skills to enhance their capacity to provide a good environment for their child's holistic development. They also monitor the children's development and identify issues so that these can be addressed early.

→ KidSTART Groups

Weekly community-based playground sessions encourage parent-child bonding and build up parental skills.

→ KidSTART Enhanced Support to Preschools

Selected centres are provided with additional resources to support parents and improve the child's school readiness.

From this year, organisations and individuals who wish to foster deeper relationships with KidSTART families can join the Growing Together with KidSTART initiative. This initiative allows the wider community to support a KidSTART neighbourhood through regular volunteer opportunities and donations of essential items such as educational resources. ●



Maple Bear (Paya Lebar) teachers, children and their parents donated educational resources to KidSTART

START SOMETHING GOOD

A PRESCHOOL DOES ITS PART TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE KIDSTART PROGRAMME.

Last October, Maple Bear (Paya Lebar) teachers, children and their parents turned up at ECDA with boxes filled with crayons, drawing blocks, foam mats, sensory bean bags, wooden toys, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The preschool had organised a donation drive for children under the KidSTART Home Visitation Programme implemented by ECDA. The programme provides support for children, aged 0 to 6 years old, from low-income families (see box). Some of the centre's children and parents brought the collected items to the ECDA office, to be distributed to more than 100 KidSTART children.

"The gifting was done in conjunction with Children's Day, to reinforce a lesson that children had learned about kindness," says Maple Bear's centre leader Ms Sharon Wong. She was heartened by the enthusiastic response from the centre's children and their parents, like Ariel Edna Quek, 5, and her father, Mr Quek Boon Kiat. "To



Mr Quek Boon Kiat and Ariel

participate in a donation drive like this teaches my daughter that not everyone is privileged to have the things she takes for granted. If we can contribute, we should," says Mr Quek.

WIDENING THE SUPPORT NETWORK

Donating educational resources is one of the ways that corporates and individuals can support the KidSTART programme. "Families and preschools can also consider volunteering with KidSTART," adds Ms Norhidayah Binte Zainal, a KidSTART Senior Home Visitor.



Growing Together with KidSTART

To find out more about the Growing Together with KidSTART initiative and how you can contribute, visit bit.ly/2JSKE2I.