

A. EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING COMMUNITIES (ECLC)

The ECLC programme is a platform for senior and lead educators with a passion for direct teaching practices to advance their pedagogical knowledge and practices in key domain areas, through peer sharing and learning at the sector level.

Known as **Pedagogists And Specialists in TEaching and Learning (PASTEls)**, they will be nurtured to become future pedagogical leaders and go on to lead Communities of Practice (CoPs) for other educators in the sector.

B. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**1. What is the profile of ECLC PASTEls?**

The 87 PASTEls welcomed onboard ECLC in 2024 comprise senior and lead preschool educators and curriculum/pedagogy specialists with passion and experience in direct teaching practice. More than half of them have more than 10 years of EC experience. They are from a mix of different organisation types across Anchor Operators, Partner Operators, MOE Kindergartens, Private preschools and Social Service Agencies.

2. Who will lead ECLC PASTEls in their Learning Communities (LCs)?

ECLC PASTEls will be led by ECDA-appointed external Resource Persons (RPs) in their respective LC sessions in their first year and be guided by RPs to lead Communities of Practice (CoPs) for other educators in the sector in their second year. RPs are curriculum specialists from MOE or faculty members and lecturers from Institutes of Higher Learning which offer Early Childhood courses,

3. How many domain areas are there?

From 2024 to 2025, there will be six domain areas under ECLC, with the addition of two new domains, namely Inclusive Practice and Mother Tongue Languages. The existing four domain areas are Early Years Competencies, Outdoor Learning, Language and Literacy, and Social and Emotional Development.

4. How does ECDA support PASTEls and their employers?

ECDA supports PASTEls' professional development through fully funded professional workshop and dialogue with local/external domain experts, professional development session based on PASTEls' learning needs and professional exchange for all PASTEls from different domain areas to share insights and good practices.

ECDA also supports PASTEls with a professional development grant of up to \$1,500 to attend workshops and courses related to pedagogical development and/or to purchase resources useful in their role as pedagogical leaders.

Employers of PASTELs are supported with a manpower relief fund of up to \$800 to support manpower relief efforts when their PASTEL is away from the centre to fulfil their programme commitments.