

Early Childhood Industry Digital Plan

Need for Digitalisation in Early Childhood Industry

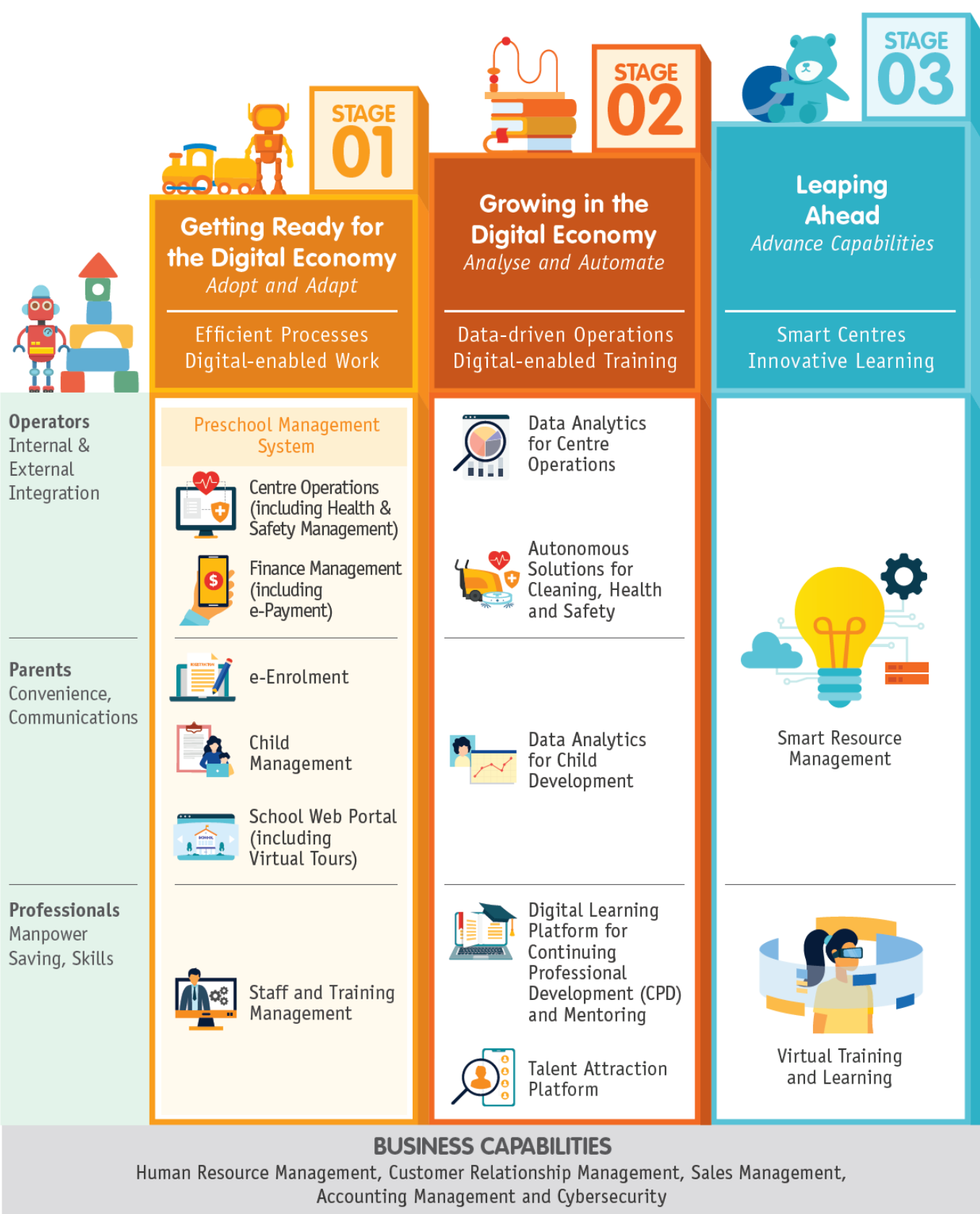
1. As demand for quality early childhood (EC) services grows, digital technology can help preschools improve productivity and manage operating costs, enhance processes and service quality for parents, as well as uplift the image of early childhood educators by improving job attractiveness and supporting professional development.

Early Childhood Industry Digital Plan (IDP)

2. Developed in partnership with the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) and EC industry partners¹, the Early Childhood **Industry Digital Plan (IDP)** provides a structured framework to guide preschools on their digital transformation efforts². It is aligned with the Early Childhood Industry Transformation Map³ launched in 2018.

IDP Roadmap

3. The three-stage IDP digital roadmap (below) charts out the digital solutions they can adopt at each stage of their growth:



STAGE 01

Getting Ready for the Digital Economy
Adopt and Adapt

Efficient Processes
 Digital-enabled Work

- Preschool Management System**
 - Centre Operations (including Health & Safety Management)
 - Finance Management (including e-Payment)
- e-Enrolment
- Child Management
- School Web Portal (including Virtual Tours)
- Staff and Training Management

Operators
 Internal & External Integration

Parents
 Convenience, Communications

Professionals
 Manpower Saving, Skills

STAGE 02

Growing in the Digital Economy
Analyse and Automate

Data-driven Operations
 Digital-enabled Training

- Data Analytics for Centre Operations
- Autonomous Solutions for Cleaning, Health and Safety
- Data Analytics for Child Development
- Digital Learning Platform for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Mentoring
- Talent Attraction Platform

STAGE 03

Leaping Ahead
Advance Capabilities

Smart Centres
 Innovative Learning

- Smart Resource Management
- Virtual Training and Learning

BUSINESS CAPABILITIES

Human Resource Management, Customer Relationship Management, Sales Management, Accounting Management and Cybersecurity

4. Under the EC IDP, preschool operators can look forward to support in the following ways:
- a. **Pre-approved digital solutions.** To make it easy for operators to adopt digital solutions recommended in the EC IDP, ECDA and IMDA will progressively curate pre-approved solutions that have been assessed to be market-proven, cost-effective and supported by reliable vendors. Preschool operators will save on the time and effort required to search for solutions and benefit from the convenience of quickly adopting these pre-approved solutions. Apart from Preschool Management System solutions⁴, **two new pre-approved solution categories** will be available for adoption from early November 2021:
- i) **e-Enrolment forms** – which will enable parents to submit enrolment forms online with digital signature(s); and
 - ii) **Digital analytics for centre operations** – which will enable operators to better plan, manage and improve preschool operations and environment and service quality.
- b. **Funding support.** To encourage preschool operators to start adopting the EC IDP, ECDA has introduced a new sectoral funding scheme, the Early Childhood Digitalisation Grant (ECDG) that eligible preschool operators may apply for to defray some of the costs of adopting pre-approved digital solutions recommended in the IDP. ECDG is part of the Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG) and will support up to 70% of the implementation cost. Applications will open from 16 October 2021 on the Business Grant Portal (BGP). More information on funding eligibility, application and claim process can be accessed here.
5. For more details on the EC IDP and the PSG, preschool operators can visit ECDA's website.

¹ Association of Early Childhood and Training Services (ASSETS), and Association of Early Childhood Educators (AECES)

² For more information on the IDP, please visit ECDA's website.

³ The Early Childhood Industry Transformation Map (ITM) was developed by ECDA in partnership with the sector, unions and other government agencies. The Early Childhood ITM aims to drive sustainable and quality EC services with initiatives to help transform the sector through skills, innovation and technology. Adoption of digital technology plays an important role in helping the sector deliver high quality services. More details are available on <https://www.mti.gov.sg/te-IN/ITMs/Essential-Domestic-Services/Education>.

⁴ The Preschool Management System solutions are technologies that preschools can adopt that cover areas such as centre operations, finance management, child management, school web portal and staff and training management.