'START SMALL DREAM BIG' 2021 FINALE

1.   Over 71,000 children from 1,050 pre-schools celebrated the completion of this year's 'Start Small Dream Big' projects in a virtual Finale event, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Conference 2021 held on 16 October, Saturday. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the preschoolers collectively dedicated 2.1 million hours to community service projects this year, under this President's Challenge movement initiated by the Early Childhood Development Agency since 2015. This year's participating pre-schools also raised some $200,000 in cash donations for various charitable causes, on top of in-kind donations such as food and other essential items.

2.   The movement's theme this year, "**Stay Connected, Make A Difference**", encouraged children to continue to maintain social connections with the community, despite the current COVID-19 situation, and find meaningful ways to reach out and do good. It was aligned with this year's President's Challenge focus on supporting the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups.

3.   The virtual Finale featured 2 preschools, PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Kembangan Chai Chee Blk 341 and Little Atlas Preschool, whose 'Start Small Dream Big' projects focused on befriending seniors and raising awareness on persons with disabilities respectively. Both pre-schools leveraged technology to connect with the community. The Finale event also showed appreciation to the 25 partner organisations who provided support to pre-schools in their community projects. Beyond providing physical resources for the children, they worked with participating preschools to conduct meaningful engagements and activities, such as virtual visits and learning journeys. Some of our partners' collaborations with participating pre-schools are featured in the ECC 2021 E-Exhibition Booth. The public can also read stories contributed by participating centres on the children's projects at *http://www.startsmalldreambig.sg*.