



**Annex A**

**Recap of Key Moves to Transform the Early Childhood Sector**

1. Since 2012, the Government has undertaken several key moves to raise the quality, accessibility and affordability of preschools. This is important to give every child a good start in life and to support families with young children. The key moves are summarised in the following table:

<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><i>Uplift Early Childhood Standards</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Early Childhood Development Centres Act took effect from Jan 2019, bringing childcare centres and kindergartens under the same regulatory framework to ensure more consistent and higher quality standards across the preschool sector.</li> <li>• The Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK) has been continuously enhanced to better provide quality assurance for preschools. Today, around 50% of preschools are SPARK-certified.</li> </ul> <p><i>Enhanced Early Childhood Resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOE has developed Nurturing Early Learners curriculum resources since 2012 to help Early Childhood educators create quality learning experiences for children aged 4-6; MOE Kindergartens were introduced in 2014 to catalyse quality improvements in the sector.</li> <li>• More Anchor Operator (AOP) preschools are offering Malay and Tamil Language education in preschools, with enhanced training and support for mother tongue language teaching.</li> </ul> <p><i>Strengthen Early Childhood Professional Growth and Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC) was set up to oversee training and professional development for the sector, and welcomed its first batch of teacher trainees in 2019.</li> <li>• A Skills Framework for the Early Childhood sector was introduced to provide greater clarity on the career pathways and opportunities for early childhood professionals.</li> <li>• Training Awards, a Professional Conversion Programme for Preschool Teachers, Place-and-Train Programme for Educators</li> </ul>
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	<p>and Professional Development Programmes have been rolled out to attract and develop early childhood educators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECDA launched a National Campaign for the Early Childhood Sector to foster greater respect and recognition of the early childhood profession.</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More full-day preschool places built, from 90,000 in 2012 to 180,000 today. This will increase to over 200,000 by 2023.</li> <li>• Large standalone childcare centres developed in estates with demand for preschool.</li> <li>• AOPs are setting up Early Years Centres for tie-up with nearby MOE Kindergartens in estates with demand for preschool.</li> <li>• More affordable and customised Early Intervention (EI) programmes introduced in 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional Subsidy introduced in 2013, and enhanced and extended to more middle-income families in 2020.</li> <li>• Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) enhanced in 2015, and again in 2020 with the extension to more middle-income families.</li> <li>• Child Development Account (CDA), which can be used to pay for preschool expenses, was enhanced in 2016 with the introduction of the CDA First Step, which does not require parents' co-savings.</li> <li>• Subsidy support enhanced in Apr 2019 for non-working mothers looking for a job or are full-time caregivers to their younger children.</li> <li>• Partner Operator (POP) scheme started in 2016, resulting in a fall in median childcare fees in the sector, which have stabilised at that level since then.</li> <li>• POP scheme will be extended and enhanced. ECDA launched a call for operators to join the new term of the scheme in Nov 2019, and aims to appoint more centres. When the new term takes effect from Jan 2021, fee caps for childcare and infant care will be lowered.</li> <li>• The Government will enhance the accessibility of affordable, quality preschools by increasing government-supported preschool places from just over 50 percent today to about 80 percent by around 2025.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the capacity of government-supported preschools grows over the medium term, fee caps at government-supported preschools will be lowered so that dual-income families with a child in full-day childcare will pay around the equivalent of primary school fees plus after-school student care fees, which is currently around \$300 per month, before means-tested preschool subsidies.</li> </ul>
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**Annex B**

**Support Schemes**

**Infrastructure Support.** The Infrastructure Support Grant (ISG) will support the following categories of operators with infrastructure related costs, subject to eligibility conditions such as those which are related to affordability and quality being met:

<b>(a) ISG (SSA Childcare Centre at HDB Open Selection Process Sites)</b>	
<b>What is this for</b>	SSA operators awarded sites in HDB void decks through the Open Selection Process (OSP) to develop new or expand childcare centres
<b>What is supported</b>	
<b>Development Grant</b>	<b>Centre's Gross Floor Area x 60% x norm cost of \$705 per square metre; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: GFA x 50% x norm cost of \$665 per square metre]</i>
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment Grant</b>	<b>\$610 per capacity provided; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: \$27,000 for first 30 places and \$300 for each additional place]</i>
<b>Rental</b>	Rental will be at prevailing HDB OSP rates, which are subsidised

<b>(b) ISG (Workplace)</b>		
<b>(c) ISG (Kindergarten Conversion)</b>		
<b>Who is this for</b>	Commercial and SSA operators that set up new childcare centres at workplaces or through kindergarten conversions in areas of demand	
<b>What is supported</b>		
<b>Operator</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>SSA</b>
<b>Development Grant</b>	<b>Centre's Gross Floor Area x 30% x norm cost of \$705 per square metre; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: GFA x 20% x norm cost of \$665 per square metre]</i>	<b>Centre's Gross Floor Area x 60% x norm cost of \$705 per square metre; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: GFA x 50% x norm cost of \$665 per square metre]</i>
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment Grant</b>	<b>\$610 per capacity provided; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: \$27,000 for first 30 places and \$300 for each additional place]</i>	

<b>(d) ISG (Community/Sports Facilities Scheme (CSFS) Premises)</b>		
<b>Who is this for</b>	Commercial and SSA operators that set up new childcare centres at commercial developments under the Community/Sports Facilities Scheme	
<b>What is supported</b>		
<b>Operator</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>SSA</b>
<b>Development Grant</b>	<b>Centre's Gross Floor Area x 30% x norm cost of \$705 per square metre; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b>	<b>Centre's Gross Floor Area x 60% x norm cost of \$705 per square metre; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b>

**EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY OF ALL MSF COS 2020 SPEECHES**

	<i>[Previous: Not eligible for funding]</i>	<i>[Previous: Not eligible for funding]</i>
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment Grant</b>	<b>\$610 per capacity provided; capped at 90% of invoice amount (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: \$27,000 for first 30 places, and \$300 for each additional place]</i>	
<b>Bonus Gross Floor Area</b>	Developers/owners of qualifying commercial properties may receive URA's bonus gross floor area provision for the equivalent amount of space set aside for preschools <i>[No change from previous terms]</i>	

**Recurrent Support.** Non-AOP/non-POP childcare centres or kindergartens may receive recurrent funding support to defray expenses of rental as well as teaching & learning resources, subject to eligibility conditions such as those which are related to affordability and quality being met:

<b>Portable Rental Subsidy (PRS)</b>		
<b>Who is this for</b>	Commercial and SSA childcare centres or kindergartens	
<b>What is supported</b>		
<b>Operator</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>SSA</b>
<b>Recurrent funding</b>	<b>40% of rental costs; capped at \$19.60psm per month (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: 30% of rental costs, capped at \$19.60psm per month]</i>	<b>80% of rental costs; capped at \$36.50psm per month (whichever is lower)</b> <i>[Previous: 60% of rental costs, capped at \$36.50psm per month]</i>
	<b>Above PRS amount will be provided to centres on a recurrent basis throughout the scheme's tenure (i.e. three years)</b>	

<b>Teaching &amp; Learning (T&amp;L) Resources Grant</b>	
<b>Who is this for</b>	Commercial and SSA childcare centres or kindergartens
<b>What is supported</b>	
<b>Recurrent funding</b>	<b>T&amp;L Resources Grant of \$5,000 per year will be provided to centres on a recurrent basis throughout the scheme's tenure (i.e. three years)</b> <i>[Previous \$4,000 per year]</i>

For more details, please visit the following links:

- More information on the Infrastructure Support Grant for SSA childcare centres at HDB OSP sites: <https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Tender-Sites-for-SSAs.aspx>
- More information on all other Support Schemes: <https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Support-Schemes.aspx>

## KidSTART

1. KidSTART provides upstream support for children from low-income families. It guides parents on child development, coordinates and strengthens holistic services for families where needed, and monitors the developmental progress of children from birth onwards. KidSTART was piloted in July 2016, and has benefitted over 1,000 children from low-income families living in the pilot regions of Kreta Ayer/Bukit Merah, Taman Jurong/Boon Lay and Geylang Serai.

2. KidSTART has three key programme components that are set in a child's familiar setting and designed to cater to the different stages of development.

a. **KidSTART Home Visitation Programme (HVP)**

What is it? The HVP provides regular home visits to parents (or main caregivers) and their infants, from antenatal stage until the child is three years old. Parents receive support in skills and practical knowledge across areas of child growth, development, health and nutrition. Regular screening of the child's development and maternal well-being across the antenatal and postnatal stages over a period of 3 years are also conducted to identify and treat issues early. In addition, group-based activities called 'Group Connect' are organised for parents to provide peer support and reinforce learning from home visits. When appropriate, the children are also enrolled into preschool.

ECDA partners KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) to jointly deliver the HVP, leveraging strengths across the health and early childhood domains for a multi-disciplinary approach to KidSTART. From 2020, ECDA will also extend the partnership beyond KKH and include National University Hospital (NUH) to deliver the HVP.

Who conducts these visits? Depending on the point of intake, these visits are undertaken either by home visitors from hospitals or ECDA. Home visitors are professionals with qualifications and/or relevant experience in sectors such as health, early childhood or social services. They are supported by other multi-disciplinary professionals, such as pediatricians and nurses, to ensure that the home visitors are able to address the needs of parents and children.

b. **KidSTART Groups (Supported Playgroups)**

What is it? KidSTART Groups are weekly community-based sessions for parents or main caregivers and their toddlers, aged 1 to 3 years old at the point of entry into KidSTART Groups. These sessions are based on the Supported Playgroups concept<sup>1</sup>, and help parents and caregivers to build up skills in child development and parent-child bonding through evidence-based curricula of structured and purposeful play. Parents are provided with

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<sup>1</sup> Unlike community playgroups, supported playgroups are playgroups supported by facilitators who are trained in early childhood development and equipped with the skills to engage and support families/parents. The facilitators help parents learn about child development and reduce social isolation.

educational resources to reinforce their learning at home. KidSTART Group facilitators conduct home visits for families who need additional support. Children requiring preschool placement are supported to find an appropriate preschool programme.

Who conducts these sessions? The sessions are conducted by ECDA-trained facilitators who have past experience working with young children and families. ECDA will work closely with community partners to set up KidSTART Groups in the different regions.

**c. KidSTART Enhanced Support to Preschools**

What is it? Selected Anchor Operator preschools operated by PAP Community Foundation and NTUC First Campus are provided with additional resources to improve engagement with and support for parents, and to improve the child's school readiness. This may include addressing barriers related to poor preschool attendance and referrals to other support programmes to ensure their children's developmental needs are addressed. Eligible children who are currently enrolled in these preschools receive KidSTART support.

Who delivers the support? Child Enabling Executives are deployed to the selected preschools to work closely with the teachers, parents, and local community partners to build a strong network of support for KidSTART children.

**Growing Together with KidSTART**

1. The **Growing Together with KidSTART** initiative aims to deepen partnerships between the community and the Government in giving children on the KidSTART programme a good start in life. This is in line with the Singapore Together movement for Singaporeans and the community to partner the Government to jointly develop policies and deliver programmes.

2. Growing Together with KidSTART will provide a more systematic way for corporates and individuals who wish to foster deeper and more sustained giving relationships with KidSTART children and families. They can partner a specific local KidSTART community through regular volunteering and/or contributions, and follow the progress of KidSTART children in the community through regular updates.

3. Since the inception of KidSTART in 2016, **EtonHouse Community Fund** (ECF) has been contributing to KidSTART by curating and procuring resources such as furniture, playmats, toys and books, for over 25 KidSTART Groups. For the past three years, they have also been providing 'Boxes of Joy' containing educational toys and other items for KidSTART children and families during the holiday season. ECF has also connected their parent volunteers to support ECDA in the KidSTART Year-end Celebration in 2018, which was attended by almost 200 parents and children. ECF has further committed to sponsoring Learning Journeys and Resource Kits for KidSTART children and families in 2020<sup>2</sup>. Since 2016, ECF has pledged a total of \$274,000 in cash and in-kind to support KidSTART.

4. In 2018, **Prudential Singapore** sponsored and co-organised an outreach carnival for KidSTART families in the Jalan Bukit Merah neighbourhood. Since then, Prudential has supported these KidSTART families in various ways. For example, when parents were attending KidSTART sessions with their children, Prudential volunteers helped to provide child-minding services for older siblings that parents had brought along for the sessions. Prudential also introduced the older siblings to Prudential's financial literacy programme. In 2019, Prudential invited KidSTART families to join their Chinese New Year celebration and sponsored tickets to the Prudential Marina Bay Carnival. In late 2019, as part of Prudential's partnership with The Boys' Brigade for the Share-a-gift campaign, they sponsored gift packs containing groceries and child-friendly nutrition items for KidSTART families, benefitting about 500 children.

5. With the official launch of Growing Together with KidSTART in September 2019, more corporations and individuals have stepped forward. For instance,

- a. **Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore (REDAS)** raised and contributed \$600,000 to KidSTART.
- b. **Kimberly-Clark Corporation** pledged to provide an estimated 100,000 diapers to KidSTART families over the next three years.

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<sup>2</sup> The learning journeys will include visits to fun and educational places such as the Singapore Zoo, KidsSTOP at Science Centre as well as the S.E.A. Aquarium. The resource kits will comprise essential educational materials that families will receive upon enrolment onto KidSTART.

- c. **Singapore Power Limited** provided 30 staff volunteers, also known as SP Heart Workers, at weekly KidSTART Groups sessions in Boon Lay;
- d. Singaporeans such as **Miss Joanne Lim**, Founder of The Right Perspective<sup>SG</sup>, raised \$236,000 for KidSTART through her networks.

6. The donations will go towards providing families with essential items such as milk and diapers, transport for children to attend preschool or KidSTART programmes, learning resources and Child Development Account (CDA) top-ups.

7. Around 250 individuals which include corporate volunteers, tertiary students, working professionals and even parents who have graduated from KidSTART, have also signed up to volunteer with KidSTART. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities including the following:

- a. Outreach to invite families to join KidSTART
- b. Supporting KidSTART families at KidSTART Groups or Group Connect sessions e.g. co-organise/co-create programmes/activities/events/trips for families, child-minding support for older siblings while parents attend KidSTART group sessions with the younger child
- c. Supporting KidSTART families as part of the KidSTART Home Visits e.g. befriending, co-organising immunisation visits for children.

8. Interested corporations and individuals can approach ComChest to contribute to KidSTART through monetary donations or regular volunteering via <http://www.comchest.sg/growingtogether>. We are encouraged by the response and contributions to the Growing Together with KidSTART initiative thus far. With more support from corporations and individuals, we can do more for KidSTART children and their families.