

Supplementary Information

1. What is the Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK)?

SPARK is a voluntary quality assurance framework to raise the quality of preschools in Singapore. Preschools are strongly encouraged to participate as attaining a good quality rating is an endorsement of the holistic quality of the preschool.

2. What does SPARK assess?

The SPARK certification assesses preschools in the following areas: leadership, planning and administration, staff management, resources, curriculum, pedagogy, and health, hygiene and safety.

3. What is SPARK Commendation and how many centres are certified with Commendation?

Preschools which meet quality standards in areas evaluated under the SPARK framework will be given the SPARK certification. In 2015, the SPARK (Commendation) category was introduced to recognise SPARK-certified centres which achieve even higher quality standards in teaching and learning practices. 3 preschools received SPARK (Commendation) in 2019. To date, 73 centres are certified with Commendation.

4. What is the Quality Rating Scale (QRS)?

The QRS is a self-appraisal tool that helps preschools evaluate the quality of their education programmes for children and work towards achieving positive outcomes for the children. It is also a tool for external assessment of centres for quality assurance and quality improvement.

5. How is the Quality Rating Scale (0-6) different from the previous versions of the QRS? Why is there a need for a new tool?

The new QRS (0-6) integrates the Updated Edition of the QRS for children aged 4-6 ("QRS-Update"), which was introduced in 2017, and the 0-3 section for children aged three years and under, which was developed for centres' self-appraisal in 2018, into a single instrument. With items and indicators integrated and streamlined, supported with additional notes and examples, the QRS (0-6) provides a more complete tool for assessment of early childhood programmes for all ages from 0-6 years old.

The new QRS (0-6) is part of ECDA's continual effort to better support centres' and parents' needs, and to raise the quality of the preschool sector.

6. When will the QRS (0-6) be used for assessment?

The QRS (0-6) will be used for SPARK assessment from January 2020 onwards. This will apply to new applications and centres whose certification is due for renewal.
