

CAREERS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - PUNGGOL SPECIAL

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Committed to care

Ms Kandy Goh Qiu Lin believes that a strong foundation supports a child's development

BELINDA WAN

TO MOST people, handling infants and toddlers during a meal would seem daunting, but not to Ms Kandy Goh Qiu Lin, an infant educator at the Kinderland centre at the Ministry of National Development (MND).

In fact, the feeding and play-time sessions during a typical day are the favourite parts of the 29-year-old's day.

Ms Goh says: "I feel motivated when I see the different expressions and behaviour of the infants while they are enjoying their meal, or exploring different toys, the environment, and interacting with their peers and educators."

She first joined the early childhood education sector last April. Prior to being an infant educator, she was an art enrichment teacher for pre-schoolers.

She was hired by Kinderland under Workforce Singapore's (WSG) Place-and-Train Programme for the Advanced Certificate in Early Years (ACEY).

Kinderland at MND is the first centre she joined after graduation.

Under the Place-and-Train programme, the company sponsors the candidate's course training fees while paying him or her a salary, which is funded by WSG.

ACEY is the minimum professional qualification for those working with toddlers up to three years old.

Growing into the job

Still undergoing training, Ms Goh is inspired to learn as much as she can to improve her skills.

She says: "There is a lot to learn about children's development and the strategies we can use to engage them."

"I would like to attend courses that will help me to understand children's behaviour, as well as workshops on art and craft activities to engage children better."

Her determination stems from a firm belief that a solid foundation is key to a child's healthy development.

"I believe that a good foundation in the early years of a child's life is very important as values are imparted from a young age," she says.

Overcoming challenges

Ms Goh feels an emotional connection with the infants and toddlers she comes into contact with daily and enjoys interacting with them.

Despite her passion for her job, she experienced some difficulty when she first started out. Working with her colleagues, who have their own personalities and working styles, was sometimes tricky.

"But with patience and communication, we are able to share our experiences and improve our teamwork," says Ms Goh.

Sometimes, parents ask questions that test her knowledge on nutrition or biology.

She says: "Initially, I was unsure about how to engage with parents. But gradually, I learnt to update them about their children's growth and progress in the centre."

Ms Goh also shares interesting observations about the child with the parents when they come to pick him or her up.

"This helps the parents to feel that they are part of their child's life, even though he or she spends most of the time in the centre," she explains.

Motivated to improve

Small, but no less significant, personal success stories fuel Ms Goh's love for the job and inspire her.

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MS KANDY GOH QIU LIN
infant educator
Kinderland centre at
Ministry of National
Development (MND)

When she just joined the centre as an infant teacher, there was a child whom she swaddled to sleep, fed and played with. Over time, she grew rather attached to the child.

Although the child initially had difficulties eating when she was younger, she now eats well and is always smiling or laughing, which never fails to brighten up



Ms Goh intends to attend courses that will help her understand childhood behaviour better.

PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Ms Goh's day.

Still rather new to the industry, she wants to continue upgrading herself in different areas that can help her to achieve higher

qualifications.

She says: "My biggest goal in life is to help as many children as possible to have a happy, proper and fruitful childhood."

"I believe it (a solid foundation) is important for better growth so that a child can grow up to be a kind, understanding, and helpful individual."