

# FACETS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2020 | Issue No. 41



## PRESCHOOL SEMINAR 2020

Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) welcomed close to 200 local and overseas participants to its first online Preschool Seminar on Tuesday, 17 March 2020. The seminar was designed to cater to significantly increasing demand amongst parents and educators for expert advice in giving preschool children with literacy delays the best possible start in their learning journey.

Every year, there are about 3,200 preschoolers in Singapore who require support to overcome learning challenges related to dyslexia. This is based on the estimate that 10 per cent of a population is likely to have dyslexia of differing degrees and four per cent severe enough to warrant intervention. The unique learning needs of these preschool children make it challenging for parents, educators and professionals working with them to transition them into primary school.

Organised by the Specialised Educational Services (SES), a division of DAS, the eighth edition of the DAS Preschool Seminar was a

purposeful blend of deep exploration of topics emphasising the importance of early intervention and workshops imparting practical tips to help preschool learners achieve. It puts participants in a better position to identify their children's learning differences and prepare them intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically to reach academic and life milestones.

The first keynote speaker is Mr Edmen Leong, Director of SES at DAS presented on child language development milestones, from the perspectives of a parent and an educator, with suggestions on ways to support a developing child with pre-literacy challenges.

The second keynote speaker is Ms Geetha Shantha Ram, Director of the English Language and Literacy Division at DAS delved into global perspectives on Twice-exceptional (2e) children, referring to young learners who are both gifted and challenged; and explore 2e in the Singapore preschool context.

# PRESCHOOL SEMINAR WORKSHOPS

This year's workshops took participants from fun, engaging and effective multisensory activities for developing children's literacy development; to strategies for promoting handwriting readiness and development for children; tactics for engaging children meaningfully in conversations to support their language growth; and ideas for nurturing 21st-century skills in children with dyslexia through freedom to play.

## Preschool Seminar Workshops

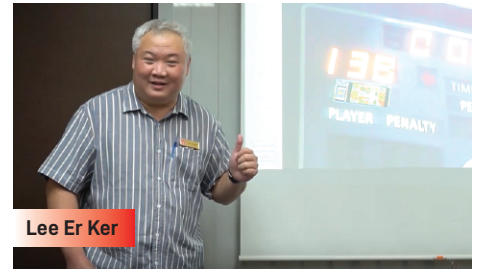
### Workshop 1: The Beauty of Multi-Sensory Activities



### Workshop 2: Let's form our ABCs!



### Workshop 3: Engaging Children in Meaningful Conversations



### Workshop 4: The Creative Side Of Dyslexia: Why the Freedom To Play Offers New Opportunities for Learning And Development of 21st Century Skills



# APPLAUSE

## From Struggling Child to Raising Star

Since the age of two years old, Kane Chia, 10 years old was moving from one childcare to another for various reasons. When he was three years old, he was placed in new childcare with a big group setting. He struggled to settle in and faced many difficulties. Most times he would be alone and not interacting with the other children in his class.

Then, he had to move to another preschool centre for his benefit. His parents hoped that a smaller classroom setting in one of Singapore's premium preschool would help. Unfortunately, Kane was still shy and not comfortable interacting with new people and new situations.

In his new kindergarten, despite practising regularly for his graduation performance, he backed out on the show day. He did not want to perform on stage with his friends. This was due to anxiety and extreme shyness. After receiving his teacher's feedback, Kane's parents decided to seek help from KKH. Kane was then diagnosed with Dyslexia.

After Kane was accepted in the Main Literacy Programme (MLP), Mrs Chia, Kane's mother found out about Speech & Drama Arts (SDA) through DAS Facebook and the newsletter. She believed the SDA programme would be able to boost her son's self-esteem and confidence level. Many studies had indicated that children with SpLDs such as Dyslexia, tend to develop low self-esteem and often have difficulties fitting in along with their peers.



Kane as Mr Tiger in 'Tortoise and the Hare'.



Kane as a Satay Seller in 'Hang Tuah - the great warrior'.

Kane has been with the SDA programme for three years now. In a recent interview with Mrs Chia, she pointed out that Kane has become a happier child. She is truly impressed by his ability to use correct words in his conversation and also at how confident he is now.

"There is an improvement in his reading skills - more fluent and he knows more words. He is comfortable speaking and expressing his opinions with friends and family".

"SDA programme opens up other possibilities such as leadership quality that can be seen in Kane

now. He would take initiatives whenever he can at home and in school".

When the SDA programme was no longer offered in DAS Queenstown, Mrs Chia took up the offer to travel to Bishan every Saturday so that Kane would be able to attend SDA class there. Kane had the opportunity to perform three times on the big stage for both local and international audience in DAS events. This could be one of the factors for the trajectory of his confidence level.

Last year, Kane was awarded SDA Shining Star Award at the 17<sup>th</sup> DAS Student Graduation & Achievement Awards Ceremony which was held at Singapore University of Technological and Design.

This award is given to SDA students who have done well in their SDA classes. We are very proud of his achievement!



A scene in Hang Tuah.



A scene in Ramayana.

Written by Muzdalifah Hamzah  
Lead Educational Therapist,  
Speech & Drama Arts  
Programme Manager



Kane (far right) with his parents and younger brother.

# TIPS

01.

Wash your hands frequently



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

02.

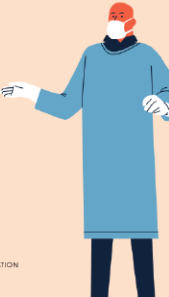
Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

03.

Cover your cough using the bend of your elbow or a tissue



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

## PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN 7 STEPS



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

04.

Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone that has fever or cough



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

05.

Stay at home if you feel unwell



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

06.

If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early — but call first



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

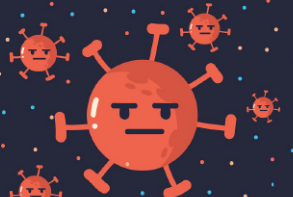
07.

Get information from trusted sources



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS  
SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

### WE WON'T LET COVID-19 STOP US!



[CLICK HERE FOR THE DAS ADVISORY](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## UNITE SPLD CONFERENCE 2020 GOES ONLINE!

UNITE SPLD 2020 Conference seeks to bring together researchers, parents, teachers and practitioners working with children with Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) and special educational needs.

In view of the current global situation with regard to the COVID-19, we have had to review the conference format which will now be held online as a webinar instead.

We believe that an Online Conference may help us reach a wider audience and continue to allow the interaction that is expected at in-person conferences. We thank you for your patience during this difficult time and for your continued support.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**  
24 - 25 JUNE

ONLINE

To be kept updated with the the latest  
UNITE SPLD news and developments click here

[MAIN EVENT SITE](#)

## VOLUNTEER

**Volunteers can play a vital role in supporting students with learning differences. CARE, SUPPORT and ENGAGE with DAS!**

Be a volunteer and help children with dyslexia achieve. We are looking for people with talents and a passion to help the cause. The following areas are available:

- Multimedia, designing, videography & photography
- Buddy reading
- Learning Centre administration
- Ad-hoc event-based support

6444 5700 khatijah.abdsalam@das.org.sg

## DONATE

Every dollar received will go directly towards the bursary fund for low-income families access Educational Services.

Help us reach our yearly goal of \$1.5M!



Scan the QR  
code to find  
out how you  
can donate

Donors will receive 2.5 times tax

## FUNDRAISING

Interested to get involved in fundraising projects and events?  
Contact surjati@das.org.sg or call 6444 5700.

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