

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **E-BRIDGE TO OPEN LARGE CHILD CARE CENTRE WITH INNOVATIVE ECOLOGICAL DESIGN IN PUNGGOL BY MID 2016**

**21 August 2015, Singapore** – E-Bridge Pre-School has been appointed by the Government to develop and manage a large child care centre built on undeveloped state land in Punggol. Spread over 5,000 sqm, the E-Bridge centre along Edgedale Plains will have a capacity of 500 child care places including infant care. This is one of the five large child care centres the Government is building with the aim of expanding child care capacity significantly in estates with a higher proportion of young families such as the new townships in Punggol, Sengkang, Yishun, Woodlands and Jurong West.

The ground breaking ceremony on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2015 will be graced by Minister for Social and Family Development, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, and will mark the start of construction for the new centre that is expected to commence operations in the second quarter of 2016.



Set to introduce innovation in preschool architecture and environment design, the centre will encompass several features that are a first for Singapore's early childhood scene. These include temperature measurement equipment for mass screening and a lightning warning system. Based on a tropical green building design concept, the centre's design maximises natural ventilation and light throughout the property while offering ample

shade. Other sustainable features include the strategic placement of green walls, an energy saving lighting system and equipment to harness solar power.

A spacious roof garden will ensure children have access to a variety of experiences that not only support gross motor development and co-ordination, but also exploration of the natural world. Planned features on the rooftop garden include a running and cycling track and a movable garden maze. The centre's innovative design also features dedicated pods for water play, sand play and construction, performing arts, a library with cosy lofts and a food atelier that offers opportunities for children to learn through food exploration and cooking experiences in an open-concept kitchen studio. Convenient access to community spaces like lush public parks will further develop in young learners a sense of social and environmental responsibility and nurture a spirit of community from a very young age.

At E-Bridge, learning is not restricted to the classroom but expanded to interactions in an outdoor space or shared spaces facilitated by teachers and educators. Children in the new centre will have multiple opportunities in the course of the day to go out of their classrooms into the outdoors with their teachers who will work alongside the children to support and facilitate their investigations, observations and research. The meaningful experiences and valuable learning opportunities outside the classroom enable children in making strong connections to their learning in the classrooms.

Mrs. Ng Gim Choo, Founder and Group Managing Director of EtonHouse that runs E-Bridge Pre-School said, "This is a very exciting project and we are delighted and honoured to have this opportunity to reach out to more Singaporean families through the new E-Bridge centre that will be a design innovation for the early years sector. The centre is designed based on research and focused on providing a creative, inspiring and effective learning environment to stimulate the development of young learners. We are confident that our innovative centre design and high quality bilingual programme will lay the foundation for our children's future success."

E-Bridge offers an inquiry-based bilingual programme derived from evidence based international best practices. The centres have thoughtfully designed learning environments offering young

learners meaningful and engaging experiences. E-Bridge teachers go through intensive training and professional development programmes. The children and parents of E-Bridge can be assured of a quality programme that develops confident, bilingual, responsible and happy global citizens.

The recently developed E-Bridge centres in Punggol and Sengkang have been running successfully over the past year offering a programme that has received a warm welcome from parents. In August 2015, E-Bridge opened a new centre at Yishun which saw much interest from parents living in the neighbourhood.

The new centre at Edgedale Plains, Punggol will offer the same high standards of practice for both infant care and child care services as in our other centres. Registration will commence from January 2016 through ECDA's online Registration Management System at <https://www.childcarelink.gov.sg/>.

To learn more about E-Bridge Pre-School, log on to [www.e-bridge.edu.sg](http://www.e-bridge.edu.sg).

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### **About E-Bridge**

E-Bridge Pre-School was launched in January 2014 by EtonHouse International Education Group under the Anchor Operator Scheme (AOP) to provide good quality and affordable early

childhood services for families in Singapore. The AOP was launched by Singapore's Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to scale up the provision of affordable and quality early childhood care and education services.

E-Bridge offers an inquiry based programme that addresses children's learning outcomes, encompassing skills, attitudes and knowledge across all domains of development. The strong second language programme empowers children to pick up and appreciate their mother tongue spontaneously and efficiently. E-Bridge also adopts high standards of practice with its quality assurance framework based on policies and standard operating procedures derived from international best practices. E-Bridge teachers have access to a comprehensive training and professional development programmes supported by EtonHouse.

There are currently 4 E-Bridge centres in operation and they are located at Rivervale Drive, Rivervale Crescent, Edgefield Plains, Yishun Street 51/Yishun Avenue 1.