

ECDA Awards Virtual Connect

2027 Awards Cycle

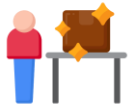
Overview



Recognise
- Identify the right award category



Understand
- Navigate the nomination and assessment journey



Compelling and Complete
- Turn broad claims into evidence of practice and impact
- Avoid common submission pitfalls

The existing ECDA Award categories remain unchanged.

Individual Awards

Award category	Who can be nominated?	Promising Tier	Outstanding Tier
Infant Educator	Infant Educators **teaching infants aged 2 to 18 months in an ECDA-licensed ECDC** with relevant EC qualifications	3 to 5 years of trained teaching experience	More than 5 years of trained teaching experience
Early Years Educator	Early Years Educators **teaching children above 18 months to 4 years in a licensed ECDC** with relevant EC qualifications		
Preschool Educator	Preschool Educators **teaching children aged 5 to 6 years in a licensed ECDC or MOE Kindergarten** with relevant EC qualifications		
Early Intervention Professional	**EI Educators, Learning Support Educators and Educational Therapy Professionals** supporting preschool children with developmental needs, with a valid appointment and relevant qualifications		
Early Childhood Leader	**Principals of a licensed ECDC or MOE Kindergarten** with relevant EC leadership qualification	3 to 5 years of trained experience as a Principal	More than 5 years of trained experience as a Principal

Centre Awards

Award category	Who can be nominated?
Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning	**ECDA-licensed ECDCs and MOE Kindergartens** that meet the applicable licensing, staffing and track-record requirements
Early Childhood Innovation	ECDA-licensed ECDCs, MOE Kindergartens and EI providers with a qualifying project and the applicable track record

For the detailed eligibility and criteria, please refer to the Terms and Conditions at www.go.gov.sg/ecda-awards

[From 2027] President's Award for Early Childhood Professionals

How does the President's Award fit within existing ECDA Awards framework?

5 Individual Awards
Infant Educator, Early Years Educator, Preschool Educator, EI Professional and EC Leader

Outstanding
(educators with more than 5 years of experience)

Commendation
(recognises niche strengths)

Promising
(educators with 3 to 5 years of experience)

2 Centre Awards
- Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning
- Early Childhood Innovation

NEW

President's Award for Early Childhood Professionals

- Candidates are **shortlisted from the Outstanding Award nominees** across five individual ECDA Awards categories.
- **No separate nomination process**.
- Recipients are expected to **demonstrate broader, profession wide impact beyond their immediate roles or organisations.**

For inaugural year only: Outstanding Award winners (2024 to 2026) may be invited to submit for the President's Award. Eligible winners will be contacted separately.

The Nominee's Journey

AWARDS for EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Nominees provide more information only as they progress.

1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5

Phase 1: Nomination

Submit required documents and personal pitch*

Phase 2: Shortlisted Nominees

Provide more information or attend interviews depending on the award*

Final Assessment

Observation, visit or interview

For nominations valid from the previous year, ECDA will reach out to remind you to update your documentation. If you wish to withdraw your nomination, please let us know.

Award Outcomes

Individual Awards

- Outstanding
- Outstanding (Commendation)
- Promising

Centre Awards

- Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning
- Outstanding (Commendation) Centre for Teaching & Learning
- EC Innovation: Distinction
- EC Innovation: Merit
- EC Innovation: Commendation

NEW

Selected President's Award Candidates

- Submit additional information to demonstrate broader, profession wide impact beyond their immediate roles or organisations. There will be guiding prompts.
- Invited for an interview with Selection Panel

What should nominees submit? Refer to the Annex.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Which nomination is more compelling — and why?

A BROAD CLAIM

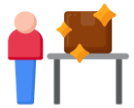
"The nominee is a passionate and dedicated educator who builds strong relationships with families."

B EVIDENCE-BASED STORY

After parents asked for clearer ways to support learning at home, **the nominee introduced fortnightly family-learning conversations.** Within one term, family participation increased and parents' observations began informing classroom planning.

LOOK FOR CONTEXT → ACTION → EVIDENCE → IMPACT

Specific evidence makes the nominee's contribution easier to see and assess.



Connect the Story

AWARDS for EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

A strong nomination connects four aspects

01 PHILOSOPHY

What does the nominee believe?

WHAT TO SHOW

- Authentic beliefs
- Clear values
- Consistent approach

STRENGTHEN IT BY

- Move beyond broad statements
- Use examples

02 PRACTICE

What did the nominee do – and why?

WHAT TO SHOW

- Intentional actions
- Professional judgement
- Responsive practice

STRENGTHEN IT BY

- Explain why actions were taken
- Highlight decisions

03 EVIDENCE

What credible examples support the claim?

WHAT TO SHOW

- Relevant and credible examples
- Clear link between practice and impact

STRENGTHEN IT BY

- Select the most relevant evidence
- Show how it supports the claim

04 IMPACT

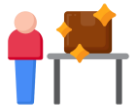
Who benefited and what changed?

WHAT TO SHOW

- Observable outcomes
- Meaningful improvements

STRENGTHEN IT BY

- Show who benefited and how
- Demonstrate depth, significance and sustainability



Show the Evidence

Turn broad statements and claims into evidence of impact.

Instead of saying…	Show what happened
"I believe every child is unique."	The nominee introduced picture-choice cards and visual schedules for a child who preferred visual communication. Over time, the child participated more confidently in group activities.
"I mentor and support my educators."	The nominee used lesson observations and coaching to strengthen educators' questioning techniques and create more intentional learning experiences.
"Our innovation project was successful."	The team addressed a specific challenge, improved workflow efficiency and saw the approach adopted by other teams.

ASK YOURSELF **WHAT WAS DONE?** **WHY?** **WHO BENEFITED?** **&** **IMPORTANTLY!** **WHAT CHANGED?**

Complete the Submission

A strong nomination can be affected by administrative oversights.

BEFORE SUBMITTING

1 Choose the correct category

Review the award criteria and terms and conditions carefully.

2 Finalise before the deadline

Ensure all materials are final and submitted by the stated deadline. **Do not modify documents after the deadline.**

3 Check access and completeness

Ensure the Google Drive link is accessible to all. If you use your organisation's SharePoint, confirm the right access. Use the submission checklist and verify that all required documents are uploaded.

4 Follow every format requirement

Follow submission instructions carefully. Provide AVI/MP4 for videos or PDF where requested; do not edit teaching videos to preserve authenticity. Provide translations for mother tongue language teachers.

AFTER SUBMITTING

5 Respond to follow-up requests

Remain contactable during the shortlisting period. Respond promptly to queries from the Secretariat and submit follow-up information by the required timeline.

6 Monitor progression emails

Monitor emails regularly during the assessment cycle, including junk/spam folders. Whitelist emails from **ecda-awards@ownself.gather.gov.sg** and **ecda_awards@gov.sg.**

FINAL CHECK RIGHT CATEGORY COMPLETE DOCS ACCESS CHECKED ON TIME

Thank you.



ANNEX

Phased submission by award: What to submit at each phase

Infant Educator, Early Years Educator and Preschool Educator

1

Phase 1: Nomination

- Personal philosophy photo-story *(Max of 5 photos with 20-word captions for each photo)*
- 50 to 100 words Nominator's endorsement
- **For Infant Educator and Early Years Educator:** No more than 10-minute video on routines or an activity (corresponding activity plan is optional)
- **For Preschool Educator:** No more than 10-minute video for a lesson and corresponding lesson plan
- EC certificates (if not uploaded on One@ECDA)

2

Phase 2: Shortlisted Nominees

- Showcase Pedagogical Impact through:
  - ❑ E-Portfolio (Max 15 slides) **or**
  - ❑ Recorded Presentation (no more than 5 minutes and in AVI or MP4 format only)
- Content Focus: Nominee's impact across:
  - Interactions and Relationships
  - Holistic Development & Well-being
  - Partnerships & Collaborations:
  - Professionalism
  - Any key achievements, etc.
- Maximum of 3 testimonials (e.g. from parents, colleagues, partnerships, etc.)

3

Final Assessment

- Centre visit with lesson observation and interview

Phased submission by award: What to submit at each phase

Early Intervention (EI) Professional

1

Phase 1: Nomination

- Personal philosophy photo-story (*Max of 5 photos with 20-word captions for each photo)*
- 50 to 100 words Nominator's endorsement
- No more than 10-minute video for a lesson / activity / intervention session, corresponding lesson plan and individualised plan of child with period of intervention, behaviour descriptors, goals and strategies, etc.
- EI certificates
- Letter of appointment from employmer with start date

2

Phase 2: Shortlisted Nominees

- Showcase Pedagogical Impact through:
  - ❑ E-Portfolio (Max 15 slides) **or**
  - ❑ Recorded Presentation (no more than 5 minutes and in AVI or MP4 format only)
- Content focus: Nominee's impact across:
  - Intervention Session and Design
  - Delivery of Intervention Support
  - Professionalism and Growth
  - Partnerships and Collaboration
  - Any key achievements, etc.
- Maximum of 3 testimonials (e.g. from parents, colleagues, partnerships, etc.)

3

Final Assessment

- Virtual lesson observation and interview

Phased submission by award: What to submit at each phase

Early Childhood Leader

1

Phase 1: Nomination

- Personal philosophy photo-story *(Max of 5 photos with 20-word captions for each photo)*
- 50 to 100 words Nominator's endorsement
- EC certificates (if not uploaded on One@ECDA)

2

Phase 2: Shortlisted Nominees

- Presentation and interview
  Content focus: Nominee's impact across:
  - Strategic Leadership
  - Curriculum Leadership
  - Professional Development
  - Partnerships & Community Collaboration
  - Any key achievements, etc
- Maximum of 3 testimonials (e.g. from parents, colleagues, partnerships, etc.)

3

Final Assessment

- Centre visit with tour and interview with teachers

Phased submission by award: What to submit at each phase

Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning and Early Childhood Innovation

1

Phase 1: Nomination

- No-more than 10 minutes video* or recorded presentation (in AVI or MP4 format only)
  - ❑ **<u>Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning</u>**

    Content focus: Teaching and learning practices (including infant care), learning environment design, pedagogy, partnership and collaborations and philosophy
  - ❑ **<u>Early Childhood Innovation</u>**

    Content focus: Project's innovation, impact and sustainability

- 50 to 100 words Nominator's endorsement

**Can be a collation of clips*

2

Phase 2: Shortlisted Nominees

- **Outstanding Centre for Teaching & Learning:** Centre visit with presentation by principal, tour and interview with educators
- **Early Childhood Innovation:** Presentation and interview