

**SPEECH OF MS RAHAYU MOHAMAD, PRESIDENT PPIS
PPIS K2 GRADUATION CEREMONY
10 NOVEMBER 2018, THE CHEVRON**

Assalamualaikum wr. wb.

Dearest Parents, Teachers and Children,

PPIS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mohd Ali Mahmood,

7oaks General Manager, Mr Bakar Alsagoff,

PPIS Assistant Head of Operations, Mdm Zulaihabe Talib,

Distinguished Board Members and Guests,

A very good afternoon to all of you,

Today marks one of the first major milestones in our children's life. The beginning of a vibrant future ahead. We all want the best for our children and we hope that our childcare centres have laid a strong foundation where more accomplishments can be built upon. Seeing them attain their very first graduation certificate brings much warmth to my heart.

2018 Graduation Theme

1. Let me begin by sharing with you, a little about this year's K2 graduation ceremony theme. The theme this year is called, 'Enchanted Countries of the World'. It is a rather significant one where we inculcate moral values, lessons and stories from cultures around the world through

speech and dance that all of you will witness today. Learning about the cultures and values of other countries is one of the many ways we can learn to appreciate and embrace our own culture here in Singapore. Thus, through this year's theme, we also hope that our children will continue to bring the values that they have learnt and use it in their future endeavours.

Achievements

2. Just like our students, PPIS childcare centres have also worked hard to attain major achievements and awards in the past few years.

3. We are proud to say that 6 of our centres have achieved the SPARK accreditation while the remaining, newly formed Jurong Centre 2, is on its way to receiving the same. SPARK is the national standard for childcare centres and attaining this standard puts PPIS alongside other international preschools.

4. All our centres also participated in the 'Start Small Dream Big' (SSDB) project, a national initiative for Early Childhood institutions to promote caring for others. We had many collaborations with other government and private organisations, namely the National Library Board, United World College, Community Centres, *Pekik* and others.

5. Last month, we held our first ever *Karnival Bahasa Melayu PPIS* which was a collective effort of all our childcare centres. The event was a resounding success in promoting the Malay language and culture, and we hope to continue planning such events annually.

Highlights

6. As you may already know, PPIS childcare centres do not just focus on academics, but also in developing every individual that enrolls with us.
7. Therefore, this year, PPIS and four other preschool operators will be piloting a new programme by Temasek Foundation Cares, called the ABCD programme. ABCD stands for Abecedarian-Based Child Development and this programme focuses on the use of language through intentional and meaningful interactions with adults.
8. Through this initiative, PPIS hopes to further invest in the child's development aspect of our curriculum. This is part of our efforts to provide accessible and a more holistic development of children in their early years, securing a more stable foundation to kick start their learning journey.

9. Providing our children with quality education is another key area that PPIS will be focusing on, and we are proactively taking ownership of imparting knowledge to the children. Hence, at PPIS, we emphasize on our teachers' development. The need to teach in English as well as Mother Tongue, is an important aspect in nurturing and cultivating a child's understanding of his or her own culture. This is integral to the development of our children's thinking and learning.
10. Together with ECDA and the government, PPIS' preschool teachers will have the opportunity to go for training workshops and courses specifically on the Mother Tongue languages.
11. *Bacalah Anakku* was one of those initiatives which 60 of our preschool teachers attended and learnt how to teach phonics in Malay.
12. PPIS childcare centres will also be piloting the Respectful Relationship (RR) programme, a curriculum written and developed by myself, which will be launch in March 2019 *Insyallah*.
13. Before I end my speech, I would like to address that all children enrolled with PPIS have been given the same education and are adequately prepared for Primary School. This is in line with MOE's efforts in ensuring quality education is given equally. We hope that in the near future, there will be more PPIS childcare

centres island wide as we open our doors to children from all social economic backgrounds.

14. With that, I would like to thank everyone here today for playing a part in the development and growth of our young graduands. Congratulations to each one of you! You have not only made PPIS proud, but your parents and teachers too. To all the parents, I hope you enjoy the amazing performances by your children. This is a true testimony of how much they have grown throughout the years.
15. In PPIS, we prioritise the holistic development of every child, preparing them to become lifelong learners and high achievers.
16. Therefore, like many here, I too look forward to hear stories from parents and family members about their children's success, which hopefully, PPIS had a part to play in. I hope that they go on to accomplish more things, reaching their goals with merit.
17. Thank you.