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DETIK 2019/2020 - EPISODE 18

BY: SURIA

Summary: Detik, a current affairs programme on Malay channel Suria, explores how the recently announced initiatives in the National Day Rally 2019 affect Singaporeans. With the raised income ceiling for preschool subsidies, the programme interviewed parents of preschoolers and the principal of preschool Yasmine@Frankel Learning Centre. All of them agreed that children should be attending preschool as early as possible, and that the subsidies are a big help for them.

The programme also highlighted the importance of equipping our preschool teachers with the proper skillset, recognising bodies such as ECDA and NIEC who play a role in uplifting training for them. Yusmarni Mohd Hasni, a Year 1 student from NIEC's Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education, was interviewed in this segment. She talks about how she has benefited from the ECDA Training Award, allowing her to secure a job even before graduating. She then shares some of the traits she thinks an EC educator should have, including an open and positive mind. She says that it is important for preschool teachers to be a good role model as young children learn a lot just by watching them. Yusmarni also shares that practicum is an important time for her to gain exposure in an authentic early childhood setting where she can learn from experienced teachers.

For the Yasmine@Frankel Learning Centre principal, she finds that the drop out rates of preschool teachers after they finish their training is very high. She has also sent an educator for training at NIEC, but has had to fork out quite a bit of money for the training even though they received a grant. ECDA has made efforts to recruit more mid-careerists through programmes such as Place and Train where students can get full course sponsorship while working for an operator at the same time.