

**SPEECH & CALL TO ACTION BY NIEC DIRECTOR & CEO MRS LOKE-YEO TECK YONG AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (NIEC) CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET) GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 8 JUNE 2024, 9.00AM AT NANYANG AUDITORIUM, NUTU**

1. Once again, congratulations to our graduating class of 2024!

**Recognition of Support**

2. Graduands, let us now take a moment to reflect on the significance of this occasion.
3. Today, we not only celebrate the completion of your studies but also your professional journey as an early childhood educator.
4. Many have come together to make this possible. (1) your family and loved ones; (2) your lecturers & practicum supervisors; (3) your peers, your course mates; (5) your employers and preschool centres that supported your training. Please join me in thanking them. *<pause for applause>*

**5 Years of Uplifting EC Training in Singapore & Staying Connected**

5. NIEC is celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. You are part of our success story in enjoying quality EC educator training and PD opportunities. NIEC is committed to supporting you throughout your EC career, and equipping you with the knowledge, skills and networks essential for excelling in your profession.
6. So, do stay connected to NIEC, by attending our in-service courses, talks/networking sessions for alumni: for together, we are so much stronger and impactful in the way we are able to nurture, inspire, educate and care for every child.

## **Embarking the Next Phase of Their EC Career**

7. So, graduands, with the gift of the hot air balloon pin, NIEC is wishing you all the best in your EC career.
8. The pin represents our hope for your success as you lift off and navigate the evolving early childhood sector. Early childhood educators are like hot air balloon pilots. Skilfully navigating a balloon's flight requires purpose, knowledge and skills. Similarly, educators with the heart to give your best to each child must have the professional know-how to enable them to grow and thrive. You will lay the foundation and shape learning dispositions in these young minds. Through your guidance, they can take off, find stability, and soar to greater heights.
9. Strive to be reflective in your practice and resilient in your continual learning, and proactively build relationships that will help you give your best to children and families.

Apply the knowledge and insights gained at NIEC to always put the child at the centre of what you do, strive to deliver creative curriculum, and design conducive environments to ensure optimal development and learning outcomes.

10. This special pin reminds us of the important work we do together, and is testimony of our shared commitment to excellence in early childhood education.

## **Call to Action**

11. At this juncture, I would like to invite all graduands to join me in reciting a call to action that embodies the spirit and commitment of every early childhood educator. Please rise.  
Now, I would also like to invite NIEC colleagues, students, and all educators to rise, to stand alongside the graduands, and recite the Call to Action together.
12. Ready... Please raise your right hand and recite the Call to Action in one voice together with me:

**"We seek to nurture, inspire, educate, and care for every child.**

**We believe every child is a star and aspire to bring out the best in them.**

**We strive to be exemplary in our conduct, guided by the values of respect, integrity, care, collaboration, and excellence.**

**We will continue to learn and be reflective in our practice while seeking to instil the joy of learning in every child.**

**We will champion the provision of high-quality early childhood education for every child.**

**We will support parents and all who share our mission.**

**Together, we will shape a better future for our nation and beyond. "**

13. Thank you, everyone, for collectively affirming, as a fraternity of early childhood educators, your dedication to the noble profession.