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# Keeping parents in mind

The Little Skool-House International engages parents through online updates, parenting workshops and support programmes

WHILE most pre-schools cater to young children, The Little Skool-House International goes the extra mile and caters to parents, too.

Its progressive approach to childcare has helped four of its centres achieve the Pro-Family Business Mark this year.

The Little Skool-House International's education development manager, Coreen Soh, said: "By providing a pro-family environment, we encourage greater interaction between the school and the family. These interactions support and enhance the learning and growth of young children."

At The Little Skool-House International, parents are encouraged to visit and interact freely with staff members.

For busy parents who have little time to interact with staff members, there are e-newsletters and blogs which parents can access to update themselves on the latest happenings.

Some of its schools even provide online photo-viewing facilities where parents can view snapshots of their child's day.

Other pro-family initiatives include specially-designed waiting areas for parents picking their children up from school, and glass-panelled viewing rooms where parents can observe classes.

Ms Soh explained: "Newly-enrolled children feel at ease when they see their parents waiting outside, thus helping them settle in



Parents can catch up on their children's progress using the online photo-viewing facility (above) and at the viewing gallery (left).



more easily."

These pro-family measures have been warmly received by parents.

Ms Ong Lee Kien, a secretary whose three-and-a-half-year-old son is enrolled at The Little Skool-House International, is glad for the opportunity to be involved in her child's education.

She said: "Conversations between parents and teachers are very valuable and important for a child's development. The teachers are also very committed and attentive, whilst the environment is cosy, lively and engaging. All these make it an excellent environment for kids to learn and play in."

Another parent, Mr Tan Keng Huat, who has five-year old son, agreed: "I think the pro-family initiatives are great."

"The parent engagement activities, such as breakfast with the kids, give me opportunities to bond

with my son, who also enjoys them very much."

While the young ones attend school, parents can also hone their parenting skills through The Little Skool-House International's list of Community Learning and Parent Support programmes.

The series of talks, workshops and support groups are meant to help parents learn how to address parenting and family-related challenges.

"The parenting talks in our Community Learning programme have been very popular," said Ms Soh. "Parents enjoy the open communication platform, and the convenience provided by The Little Skool-House International in helping to improve their parenting lives."

By providing for both the child and the parents' learning needs, The Little Skool-House International proves itself to be a truly pro-family business. MELODY TAN

The Pro-Family Business (PFB) Mark, supported by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, signifies businesses' commitment to welcome families as customers. It underscores the potential business value that can be derived from targeting families as customers. For more information on the PFB Mark, contact the PFB Secretariat at 6375 0939 or visit [www.mbp.org.sg](http://www.mbp.org.sg).