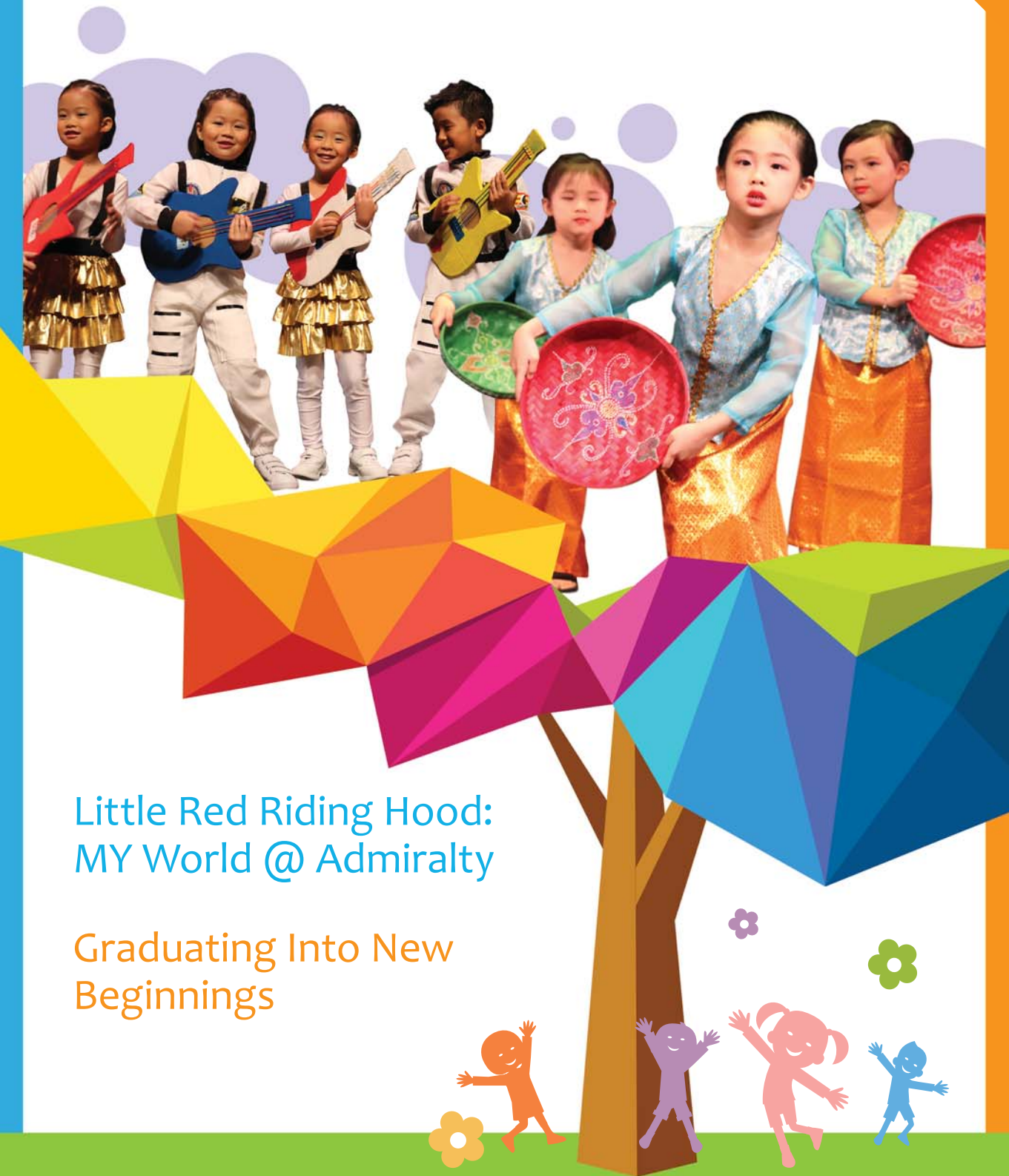




Every Child Deserves
A Champion

2017
Issue 4



Little Red Riding Hood:
MY World @ Admiralty

Graduating Into New
Beginnings

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A GOOD HEAD-START,
BEGINS WITH THE HEART



FEELING AT HOME WITH
MY WORLD



SAFE LEARNING
ENVIRONMENTS,
LIFETIME EXPLORATIONS



THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO
GO, CHAMPIONS TO BE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Deepening Roots, Sprouting Shoots ...and Bearing Good Fruit



“

**Continuity
gives us roots;
change gives
us branches,
letting us
stretch and
grow and
reach new
heights.**

”

— Pauline R. Kezer

Dear MY World Family & Friends,

Thank you for your continuous trust, support and encouragement as we play a part in each child's foundational years.

2017 is coming to a close, and I hope it has been a splendid year for you. For the MY World team, this has been a year of hard work, healthy growth and happy outcomes. We have embraced the challenge of increasing capacity by opening more centres in Waterway Sundew, Yishun Palm Breeze, Tenteram Peak and McNair Towers. We continue to build quality through constant professional development, and saw our teachers sharing best practices evidenced by children's learning during the first MY World Symposium.

Our key teachers and principals have participated in specially organised study trips to Suzhou and Shanghai. Another team of leaders attended the NAEYC Conference in Atlanta, having been selected to present their paper.

The remarkable growth is a result of concerted effort to meet changing needs. At the National Day Rally, PM Lee had announced new initiatives in early childhood education; MY World is very much a part of this effort. Growth brings its own set of challenges. It calls for long-term commitment, is costly and often stressful. Each Principal in a new centre is called to lead a new team, aligning the vision and mission, complying with operating procedures,

establishing effective communications, ensuring quality in lesson planning in line with the curriculum framework, and setting up a warm, safe and welcoming atmosphere – such that every child with us is championed to reach his or her full potential.

The reward is in seeing our children grow as confident explorers, creative thinkers, curious learners and caring individuals.

We saw evidence of this during the recent graduation ceremony where our K2 graduands confidently, cheerfully and with great charm put up a magical performance, where they led us into seeing their world within our world. As they grow into another season of life, each child will always remain close to our hearts, as part of the MY World family.

Do share your experiences with us in MY World. We would love to hear from you as we journey together.

May I take the opportunity to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas, and a Happy New Year full of zest and fruitful growth!

Phyllis Tan

Director, MY World Preschool
ED & CEO, Metropolitan YMCA

HEART

A GOOD HEAD-START,
BEGINS WITH THE HEART





A GOOD HEAD-START, BEGINS WITH THE HEART



Change, Glorious Change!

What must happen before a caterpillar can turn into a butterfly?

Before sand turns into pearls?

Before carbon turns into diamonds?

Change must happen. Yes, that messy, slow and crucial process that happens to all of us.

It leads to glorious growth and we only need to embrace its process!

Of course, that's easier said than done.

Many well-adjusted adults still struggle with change. And for our children who go through multiple changes while growing up, change can be stressful.

As they develop, they encounter new experiences like starting school, settling into a new environment, building new relationships and more.

Though exciting and fun, these can also bring about moments of anxiety, sadness and even anger.

As parents and educators, we may wonder what we can do for our children when stressful emotions and thoughts seem to cocoon them.

Dr Bruce Compas, the lead author of the landmark research, a meta-analysis of more than 200 coping and emotion regulation studies, has these valuable tips for us:

Be a listening ear.

Let your child share with you what he or she is struggling with. Even if you're not offering any advice, your child will be comforted by your presence.



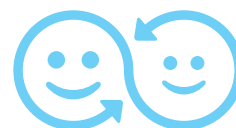
Empower your child to choose.

Remind your child that he or she doesn't have to be helpless when facing change. Let your child know that he or she can choose to change what can be changed, and choose to accept what can't be changed.



Share a personal example.

Let your child know how you coped with similar situations in the past or how you might cope with a similar situation. This will help your child to realise that challenges can be overcome.



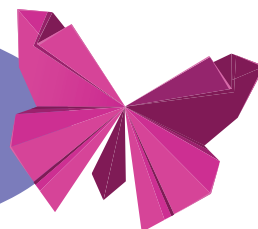
Develop a plan.

Make a plan to manage the change together. If the first plan doesn't work, think through and try another plan until the issue has been fixed or until your child has learned to adapt to the change.



With our help, our children can learn how to **trust the process of change and develop confidence** to meet future changes and challenges.

Like caterpillars, they too are meant to become butterflies; destined to fly into a stunning horizon of potential.



HOME

FEELING AT HOME WITH MY WORLD





FEELING AT HOME WITH MY WORLD

Little Red Riding Hood: MY World @ Admiralty

“
Players Theatre’s mission is to
bring relevant and professional
quality plays and programmes that
inspire and enthrall children.
”



Little red riding hood making her appearance

On 9 November 2017, our children at MY World @ Admiralty were treated to a rousing performance of Little Red Riding Hood!

This multi-sensorial and highly-interactive show was produced by Players Theatre, a leading children theatre company that was nominated for Best Production for the Young at the Straits Times Life Theatre Awards.

Players Theatre’s mission is to bring relevant and professional quality plays and programmes that inspire and enthrall children.

As they performed, our children sat with their eyes glued and fascination; expressing ‘oohs’ and ‘ahhs’ as they saw how a familiar tale from their books could be transformed into a visual and musical feast!

After the show, one of our teachers who had been observing the children, reflected that “by feeling immersed in various characters’ perspectives, our children were better able to understand how they could show compassion, empathy and tolerance for others.”

It was a fresh way to read an old classic and to engage with a story’s values – many of our children who had already read this classic were now better able to connect to it with their hearts.

At MY World, we believe in preparing our children to engage with life and challenges not just with their minds, but also with their imaginations. That’s why, we do our best to expose our children to quality creative experiences like children theatre productions!

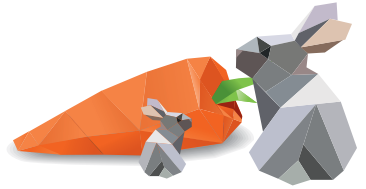
Such experiences help to spark creativity early on in our children, giving them a better chance to develop their creative gifts and maintain a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

Thanks to Players Theatre, our children now have a delightful memory of a childhood classic, as well as moments of play, humour and much laughter with their friends and teachers!



Thrilled children with their range of expressions

Farmers As Teachers: MY World @ Tampines North



A goat munching on a leaf

Being born and bred in urban Singapore, we rarely encounter farm animals in real life.

And yet we talk about them all the time in our nursery rhymes and storybooks!

Recently, in some of our classroom discussions focusing on how people interact with animals, our teachers received a range of curious questions from our children that were centred around farm animals.

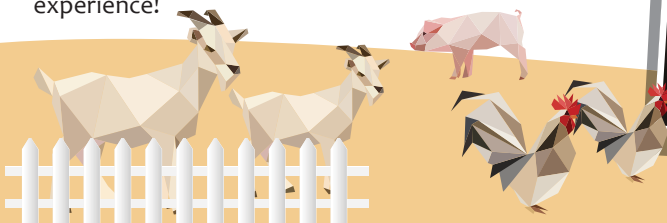
“What kind of noises do they make?”

“What kind of food do they eat?”

“What do they do on the farm?”

“Can I be a farmer? I want to take care of animals!”

We concluded that the best way to answer these questions would be through an actual farm experience!



On 29 September 2017, we visited Farmart Centre to observe different animals like quails, roosters, goats and more in their various habitats.

At the farm, our children were treated to a stimulating experience of touching and feeding the animals; all while learning more about their unique characteristics, diets and living conditions.

One of the highlights of the outing was learning from the farmers who explained the detailed process of farming quails for their eggs.

Although our children had seen eggs in their homes and supermarkets, many had not realised that these originated from farms. Being able to see the process of producing quail eggs from start to end gave all of us a newfound respect for the farmers and their quails!

The children were also amazed by how eggs would eventually hatch into baby birds under the right conditions. They, however, shook their heads in disappointment upon learning that those in our supermarkets would never hatch without fertilisation!

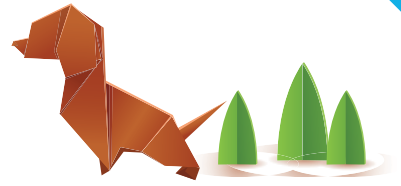
We ended the outing with great memories and upon returning back to our centre, noticed that our children took better care of their class pets too.

Through this farm visit, we are hopeful that they've found the answers to many of their questions. And even more certain that they now have a bigger heart for animals!



A lesson on how chickens hatch their eggs

Giving Pets More Than Pats: MY World @ Canberra



Who can resist patting a cute animal?



Our cockatiel perching with pride

What about feeding it, cleaning it, grooming it and giving up precious leisure time to make sure it is cared for daily?

While we love cuddling cute animals, taking responsibility for them is quite something else!

On 9 October, our centre decided to hold a Pet's Day to learn what it means to live and care for our pets on a day-to-day basis. It was part of our efforts to explore how people interact with animals.

Rather than learning through flashcards or videos, we felt that our children would better connect the idea of responsibility for pets by allowing them to hear from pet owners themselves.

As such, one of our activities included having a show-and-tell session where our children and their parents brought along their pets and gave us a peak into their lives.

Our new guests included a bird, dog, tortoise, fish and rabbit.

Our animals took the centre stage alongside squeaks and squawks (that did not come from them, but from our excited children)!

As our pet owners shared about the needs of their pets and how they would go about meeting these needs, our children experienced how responsibility could build bonds of love between each pet and its owner.

Amidst the excitement, some of our K2 children exclaimed that "caring for pets is like caring for family members!"

Like how we treat our family, we learn how to love, care for and communicate with our pets in ways that they appreciate.

We are thankful for the parents and children who generously shared their love for their pets with us. Through their sharing, our children have learned how to care, respect and be responsible for the animals in our lives!



Our dog whose bark was not as loud as the children's excitement!

Our tortoise who retreated into his introverted shell



HAVEN

SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS,
LIFETIME EXPLORATIONS





SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS, LIFETIME EXPLORATIONS

New Centre: Looking For A Preschool For Junior?



A space for children to play and learn at MY World @ McNair Towers

Our children experience the world through fresh eyes.

During their preschool years, they rapidly learn that change happens as they grow, and that they can be capable of thriving amidst these changes.

That's why, we do our best to provide **stimulating environments** and **nurturing role models** at all of our MY World preschools, so that we can equip our curious learners to **adapt well to changes** and to **embrace growth** with confidence.

In addition to equipping our children to become **curious learners**, we also build them up to be **confident explorers, creative thinkers and caring individuals**.

Our newest centre at McNair Towers is set to do just that.

If you're looking for a suitable preschool community for your child or know of someone who is, learn more about **MY World @ McNair Towers** through this interview!

Interview with Ms Belinda Koh, Centre Principal of MY World @ McNair Towers

Can you tell us more about your new centre?

McNair Towers is a newly-constructed spacious centre with two enclosed rooms, which are specially designed for young children. It is fully air-conditioned and provides a conducive environment for learning and playing. It is also close to the heartland, amidst HDB estates and the Kwong Wai Shui elderly care centre.

What is your aspiration for every child who attends your centre?

Every child is special and unique. It is my hope to provide the best possible learning environment for every child to learn well and grow to be more independent.

The years of growing up involve many changes. What are some of these changes commonly faced by children?

Children are curious by nature. Growing up in this 21st century, everyone needs to keep themselves updated with the latest technology. Interestingly, children, being fast learners, adapt and learn well in the right environment. Here, we aim to provide the best possible environments for children to learn through fun and meaningful activities.

How can parents work with your centre to prepare their children for these changes?

It takes a village to raise a child. We maintain close relationships with our children's parents and will always work with them to bring out the best in every child.

Are there still vacancies? How can parents find out more about your new centre?

Our centre has started enrolment and interested parents are most welcome to contact us at 62913166 or email us at ccmnr.towers@myworld.org.sg.

Congratulations And Celebrations!

MY World @ Ang Mo Kio, received the Early Childhood Innovation Merit Award at the 2017 Early Childhood Conference on 6 October.

The award recognised MY World @ Ang Mo Kio's innovative initiative, 'I Spy with My Arty Eyes', which showcased the creative endeavours of the children.

This conference, organised by the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), brought together parents and early childhood professionals to share practical tips and innovative ideas that everyone could use to support our children's learning and development.

Ms Doreen Lew, Centre Principal and her team at MY World @ Ang Mo Kio who put their hearts into designing impactful creative experiences for the children.

Also at the conference, 10 of our centres received the Singapore Pre-school Accreditation Framework (SPARK) accreditation.



Please join us in congratulating these centres:

MY WORLD
@ ADMIRALTY

MY WORLD
@ ANG MO KIO
CENTRAL

MY WORLD
@ BOON KENG

MY WORLD
@ CANBERRA

MY WORLD
@ TAMPINES
NORTH

MY WORLD
@ COMPASSVALE
ANCILLA

MY WORLD
@ KANG CHING

MY WORLD
@ WOODLANDS

MY WORLD
@ WOODLANDS
CIRCLE

This certification recognises centres with quality teaching and learning practices, which include a well-designed and integrated curriculum, and strong pedagogies to support children's holistic development in an environment that is conducive for learning.





Our inspiring awardees taking the stage with Host ECDA CE Mr Eugene Leong and Special Guest Ms Low Yen Ling

At MY World, all of our preschools adopt a learner-centred and inquiry approach to teaching. Our curriculum is based on the central belief that children are **confident explorers, creative thinkers, curious learners and caring individuals**, and that they can learn almost anything, if the topics are properly structured and presented.

We are also guided by six principles that allow us to develop children into **team players, reflective inquirers, independent problem solvers, effective communicators and resilient individuals in life**.

That said, approaches, beliefs and guiding principles only succeed when there are quality educators.

It is because of educators at all our centres who continually provide quality preschool education that we have been able to turn our educational frameworks into growth realities for our children.

That's why we celebrate our educators and their inspiring efforts together as one MY World family!

If you'd like to learn more about our teaching and learning approaches, you can visit <https://www.myworld.org.sg/curriculum.php#my-world-curriculum>.



HAPPENINGS

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO,
CHAMPIONS TO BE





HAPPENINGS THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, CHAMPIONS TO BE



MY World, Our Growth

What happens when early childhood educators come together to share diverse insights about their areas of expertise?

A hunger to push the boundaries of education is rekindled.

New insights are developed.

Everyone grows together as a family!

On 27 and 28 July, we held our debut symposium at our headquarters with the theme, “Seeing Your World Within MY World”.

400 passionate educators from 31 of our centres came together as one strong family to learn, develop and grow in knowledge through workshop topics, as well as through exciting exchanges of insights and perspectives.

The topics shared were carefully-curated to aid each attendee in their professional development and to develop their knowledge of the best practices of early childhood education.

Some of the topics featured in the workshops involved designing eco-friendly environments, positive parenting, how to nurture the artistic development of children and more.

We also experienced a generous flow of ideas and insights, thanks to the different centres that showcased some of the creative and interesting exhibits they had already done.

Besides developing our educational expertise, we had a good time reconnecting with one another.

During the break time, our staff unveiled their comical sides with the help of a fun photo booth!



As the symposium wrapped up, we were inspired with the new innovative learnings that each of our centres could implement to further build and equip our children to embrace their future with confidence.

Beyond that, we were glad that we could do it together as one MY World family.

As Henry Ford shared,

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”



Graduating Into New Beginnings



Guest-of-Honour Dr Samuel Yeak, President,
Metropolitan YMCA Singapore



MY Champion Award Winners 2017

We held our K2 graduation ceremony on 24 November with pride and gratitude.

To showcase the learning experiences over the past years, 400 graduates from 28 of our MY World Preschool centres put up a delightful music and dance performance.

The theme for the graduation concert, “Seeing Your World Within MY World”, was inspired by the curiosity, creativity and confidence of young children. Various young co-emcees took to the stage and clearly articulated their welcome and introduced their items. Whether the children sang as a group or solo, their voices and enthusiasm touched our hearts. The dances, movements and skits all told stories of their expanding world view and to be able to see their world through unbiased lenses.

What a magical concert it turned out to be!

It was a testimony to how hard the children had worked. And as educators, we felt confident that these graduates would go on to achieve greater excellence in all they do in the future.

Recognising that “it takes a village to raise a child”, we chose to also honour the parents and teachers behind our graduands at this ceremony.

Parents had partnered with us for community-outreach programmes, learning journeys, show-and-tell sessions. With this invaluable partnership and more, we have been able to go further in building up our children to become confident explorers, creative thinkers, curious learners and above all, as caring individuals!

As a way to recognise educators who had gone the extra mile to help our children, we awarded 12 exceptional educators with the MY Champions Award.



These educators, who had been nominated by peers and selected by principals, demonstrated attributes of being proficient childcare professionals, lifelong learners, team players and great role models of our core values of being caring, honest, respectful and responsible.

In particular, there were four educators who were awarded the MY Champion 'Merit' Award; in honour of their outstanding qualities as educators.

We are happy to share that one of our MY Champion (Merit) awardee, Ms Liu Ping, from

MY World @ Canberra also recently won the MOE Outstanding Pre-School Mother Tongue Award.

As we wrapped up the ceremony, many of us felt a welling of emotions within us; sadness at having to bid farewell to our bright graduands, mixed with gratitude that we could play a part in building their foundational years.

We will not forget our time with our children and their parents.

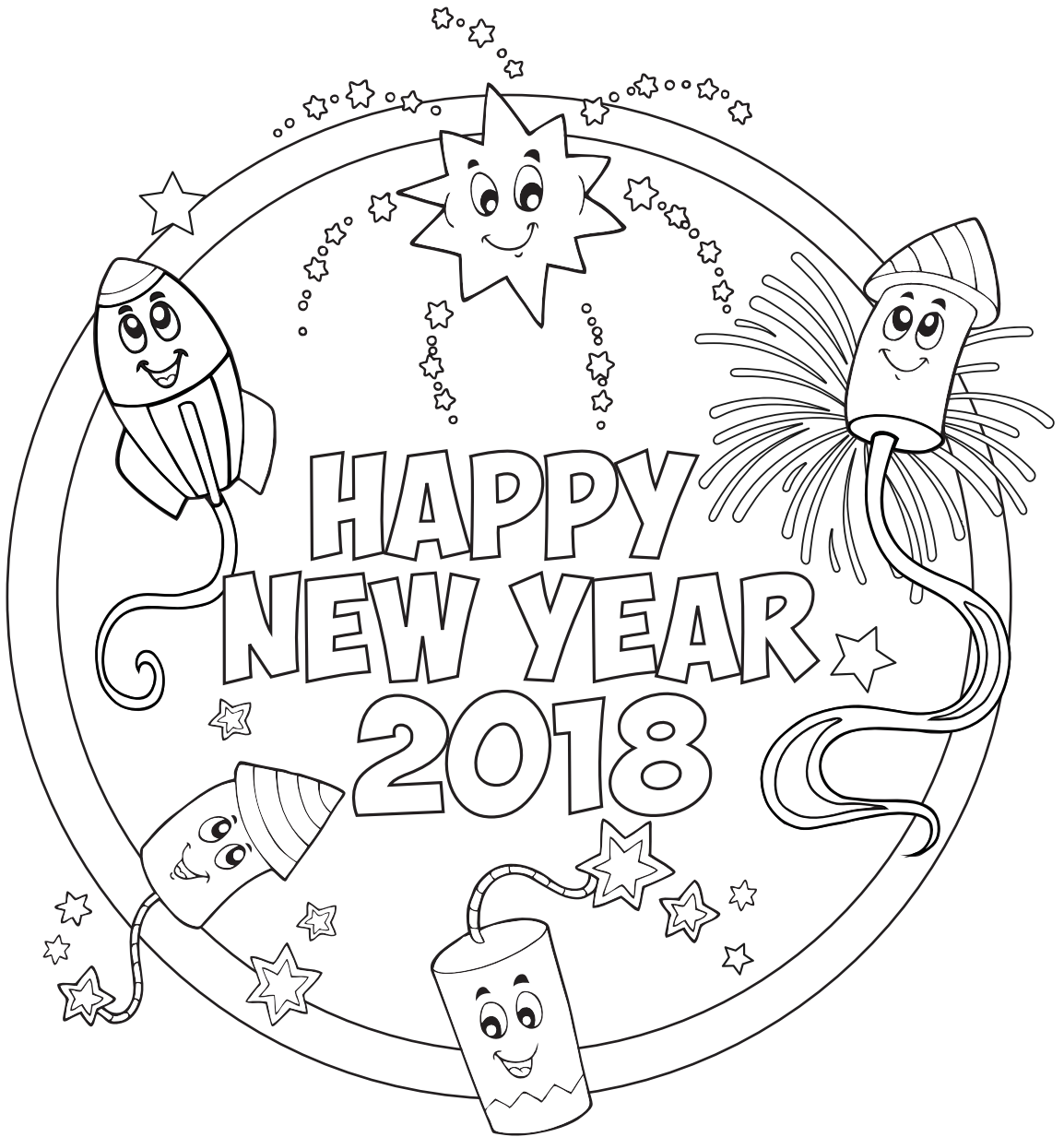
Here's to exciting new beginnings in their lives ahead!

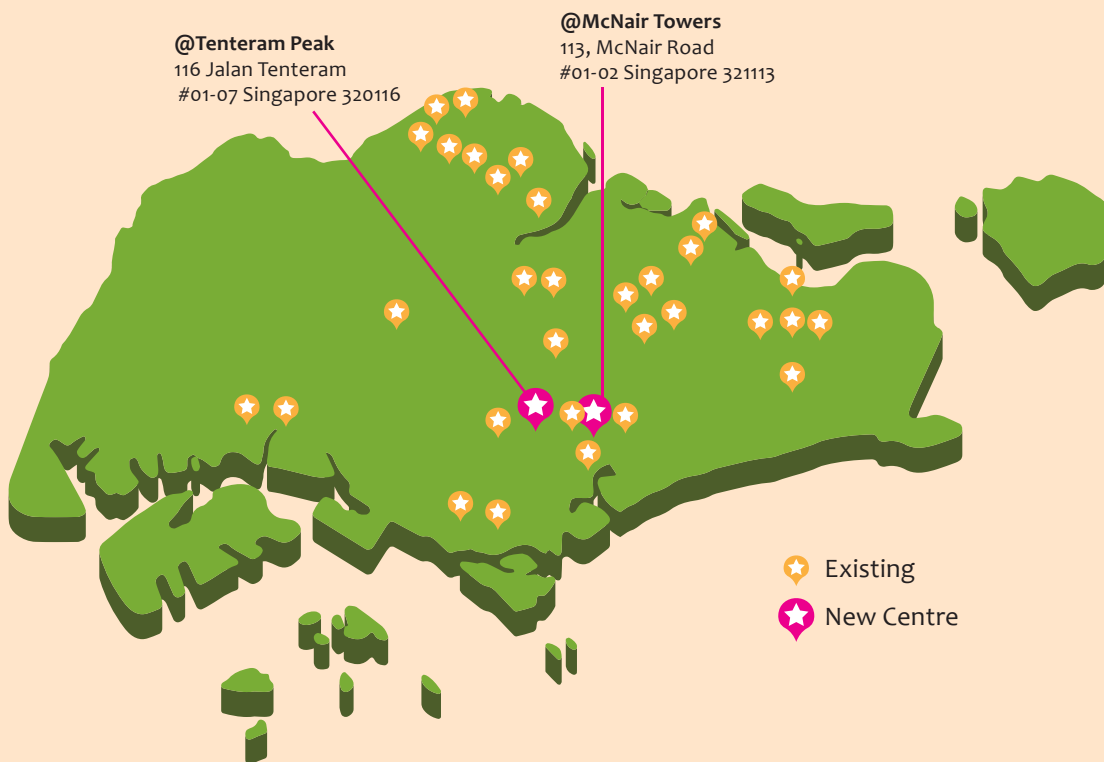
Fun Activity: Family Fun!

Help to hang the
stocking through the
stocking shaped maze
on the fireplace.



Get your child involved in this colouring activity together with you.
It is a great way to bond with him/her during this holiday season.





MY WORLD CENTRES

Admiralty • Ang Mo Kio • Ang Mo Kio Central • Bishan • Boon Keng • Bukit Panjang • Canberra • Compassvale
Ancilla • Gardens • Hougang • Hougang Dewcourt • Kang Ching • Leng Kee • McNair Towers • Pasir Ris •
Punggol Edge • Sembawang Drive • Simei • St George's • Tampines Central • Tampines Changkat • Tampines
North • Teban Gardens • Tenteram Peak • Tiong Bahru View • Upper Serangoon View • Waterway Sundew •
Woodlands • Woodlands Circle • Yishun • Yishun Northland • Yishun Palm Breeze



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