Let kids play, give teachers trust

**Comment & Analysis**

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The goal ought to be to convince parents of the importance of play, not for its own sake, but based on empirical evidence that it is more effective in getting better learning than workbooks and a rigid curriculum.

LEARN TO BE CITIZENS

Finally, Mr Heng spoke of the importance and public support for character and citizenship education. Here too, there may be some lessons that can be adapted from the Finnish experience.

In Finland, play is early childhood education. Wherever and however they are taught, students in educational institutions claim to be interested in what they are learning. This is a significant improvement over the Singaporean approach. Singapore education is mostly seen as a set of rules, a task to be fulfilled, and a burden to be endured. In Finland, education is a matter where students are interested in what they are learning and where they are encouraged to express their own ideas.

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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**KINDERGARTEN REFORM**

At first glance, it would seem so. After all, in addition to some financial measures, the two countries are so similar, and top the global charts, on all kinds of international measures of institutional (lack of corruption), economic (global competitiveness), and scholastic performance (maths and science scores at secondary school).

When they diverge, they do so on pre-school quality — the national goal awaited by the revolution that Singapore only ranks 29th internationally is another part of the picture. The improvements outlined in the MOE’s announcement is a natural place to look when it comes to lessons that can be learned.

The MOE has indicated that its reforms are a true reflection of the demand for early childhood education.

Singaporeans parents will support a focus on play in pre-school if continued it will be the best for their children later on.

**Toshio Craig**

The MOE’s announcement of the reforms is a natural place to look when it comes to lessons that can be learned. The Singaporean government has indicated that it is committed to improving the quality of early childhood education.

The Commons & Analysis

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To move to a system that full trust in teachers may not come naturally in Singapore. Still, a virtuous cycle can and must be created. Increase the professionalism of pre-school teachers.

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