

# KEEPING ON THE RIGHT TRACK

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



## PASSING THE BATON ON

The push behind Ms Tan Li Hwa's decision to become a teacher was a simple one. "My Primary School teacher probably is one of the greatest reasons why I choose to be in this profession," says Li Hwa.

Just like how her teachers gave her a wholesome early education experience, Li Hwa now takes on the baton to do the same for her students at Punggol View Primary School. While completing her degree in Computer Engineering, Li Hwa realised during her internship that she prefers a more people-oriented work environment and in particular, interacting with children. Hence, becoming a Physical Education (PE) teacher at the Primary School level was a natural choice for her.

## AIN'T NO CHILD'S PLAY

As primary school years make up a critical stage in a child's development, primary school teachers have the added responsibility to help build a strong

foundation for the students. With play being a basic medium of learning in a child's early years, PE teachers, have the important mission to translate play into teachable moments.

Her training at the National Institute of Education during her 2-year Postgraduate Diploma in Education equipped her with the essential skills of a PE teacher to holistically develop each student. For instance, module like fundamental movement and anatomy provides an understanding of the muscle development of children at different ages so that teachers can design different learning activities for the students.

Besides developing their physical fitness, PE also plays a critical role in shaping the character of a child. "Students learn how to treat each other with respect, how to be fair and honest when playing, how to show care during play, how to make wise decisions as they learn to work together in harmony," Li Hwa shares.

## TOUGH TIMES, TOUGHER SPIRIT

Content delivery proves to be a challenging aspect of teaching. To allow her students to understand concepts easily and effectively, Li Hwa constantly explores ways to improve teaching. But this is not all that she has to do as a teacher.

A misconception that people hold regarding teachers is that they only teach. Li Hwa however expresses that a teacher's role goes beyond that. In fact, it is not uncommon for a teacher to juggle with various roles at one time. Besides teaching, Li Hwa's work also includes planning and organising PE related programmes and events, oversee CCAs and handling daily administrative tasks.

"In order to succeed as a teacher today, you will need to be adaptable and open to changes. You must be willing to take up added responsibilities that may not be what you first expected," she advises.

While Li Hwa does agree that teaching is a challenging profession, being a PE teacher gives Li Hwa the opportunity to positively influence her students at their most impressionable stage. "Whenever students achieve the learning outcome and become more confident, I feel happy for them." This endless satisfaction is what keeps Li Hwa going in the teaching profession.

Find out more about teaching at [www.moe.gov.sg/careers/teach](http://www.moe.gov.sg/careers/teach).