



Media Release

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## **RESTROOM ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) LAUNCHES HAPPY TOILETS @ PRESCHOOLS**

*Introduction of a New Guide to Better Preschool Toilet Design, Maintenance & Education*

1. At the Happy Toilet Seminar held at the Environment Building today, the RAS, Restroom Association (Singapore) launches a new Happy Toilets @ Preschools (**Annex A**) Programme. This new holistic programme for preschools looks at standards of toilets, training of teachers, staff, caretakers and cleaning attendants followed by education of preschoolers and their parents or guardians.
2. At the launch, Guest of Honour Ms Low Yen Ling, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Social and Family Development presents the Happy Toilets @ Preschools certificates to two preschools namely Generation Kidz @ Limau and PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Telok Blangah Blk 44 that have successfully piloted the new programme to achieve the highest 3 'thumbs up' accreditation after completing the three phases on Design, Maintenance and Education.
3. The RAS also introduces a new 81-page Guide to Better Preschool Toilet Design, Maintenance & Education (**Annex B**) to provide preschools with handy information about toilet fixtures and facilities that are safe and friendly to preschoolers followed by good practices on toilet maintenance and information about the new Happy Toilets @ Preschools Programme. The guide can be downloaded from the RAS website at [www.toilet.org.sg](http://www.toilet.org.sg).

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## **About Restroom Association (Singapore)**

*The vision of the Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS is A Gracious Society Embracing Excellence in Restroom Culture. Started in 1998 as a non-profit organisation, RAS is dedicated to building an excellent restroom culture by actively engaging owners, the cleaning industry and users to play their part. Some of its programmes or activities – supported by the National Environment Agency (NEA) – initiated and conducted include the Happy Toilet Programme, Happy Toilet School Education programme for Preschools, STAR (Sustaining Toilets As Restrooms) Awards Programme, Eco-Assessor Programme and LOO (Let's Observe Ourselves) Carnival & Awards. RAS is a strategic partner in national community events like Clean & Green Singapore and is also a founding member of the World Toilet Organization and the Keep Singapore Beautiful Movement.*

## **Glossary of Chinese Terms (In alphabetical order)**

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Guide to Better Preschool Toilet Design, Maintenance & Education | 学前公厕指南    |
| 2. Happy Toilets @ Preschools Programme                             | 康乐公厕学前计划  |
| 3. President Tan Puay Hoon  | 会长陈培芬     |
| 4. Restroom Association (Singapore)                                 | 新加坡卫浴文化协会 |

## ANNEX A

### HAPPY TOILETS @ PRESCHOOLS PROGRAMME

#### Introduction

The Happy Toilets @ Preschools Programme (HTPP) is a new holistic programme, renewable annually, aims at encouraging preschools to achieve the highest accreditation of completing the three phases on Design, Maintenance and Education within a six-month period. To encourage and recognise sustained achievement, preschools will be accredited with the Platinum Award if they achieve the highest accreditation for three consecutive years. This new programme adopts a more holistic approach that replaces the previous Happy Toilet School Education for Preschools (HTSEP) launched in 2007 by former Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan.

It is mandatory for participating preschools to complete the Design phase to meet the minimum accreditation. This means preschools that have completed the Maintenance and/or Education phase(s) without completing the Design phase will not be accredited. The completion of the design phase is to ensure all preschool toilets meet the minimum standard equivalent to the three-star rating of the Happy Toilet Programme.

#### Grading System

To resonate better with parents, teachers and preschoolers, a simple grading system will be employed for preschools participating in the programme.

A plaque with the Happy Toilet logo will be presented to each preschool upon completion of the three phases of the Happy Toilet @ Preschool Programme. The three phases are:

1. Design phase
2. Maintenance phase
3. Education phase

A 'thumbs up' icon will be displayed to determine the completion of a phase of the Happy Toilets @ Preschool programme.

As there are three phases in total, preschools are able to get a maximum of three 'thumbs up'. Preschools that successfully complete only two phases will be awarded two 'thumbs up' and only one 'thumbs up' icon will be displayed if only one phase was successfully attempted.



## **Happy Toilet @ Preschool Programme: Education Phase**

The education phase of HTPP will also adopt a holistic approach in its execution. This method complements the maintenance and design phases of the programme by exploring all avenues to educate all user stakeholders. The stakeholders form the three main target groups. Separate talks and workshops will be conducted for each target group. Taking into consideration the age levels of each target demographic, each talk or workshop will be customised to appeal to each group and achieve the necessary outcomes.

### 1. Target Group 1: K1, K2 and Nursery Levels

A 45 minute talk will be conducted for this target group at the venue of the preschool. In this setting, students will be made aware of the need to practise good hygiene habits and adopt the desired restroom etiquette.

### 2. Target Group 2: Preschool Teachers and Associated Staff

A 45 minute workshop will be conducted at the preschool for all staff. This workshop serves to engage staff members on matters relating to toilet standards, general etiquette awareness and behavioural practices of preschoolers in toilets.

### 3. Target Group 3: Parents and Other Family Members of Preschoolers

Family members of preschoolers will be invited for a separate 45 minute talk at the preschool. This talk serves to inform them about the preschool's efforts within the HTPP and provide general information about restroom etiquette and proper hygiene practices. Family members would be made aware of the need to maintain clean toilets in preschool and at home to preserve what preschoolers learn during their separate talk.

In order to complete the education phase of the HTPP, preschools need to successfully complete at least two out of three Target Group talks and workshops.

Furthermore, of the 2 completed Target Groups, it is mandatory that the talk for Target Group 1 be completed. This means that preschools can either arrange for workshops for Target Group 2 or 3 or both, but they must complete the talk for the first Target Group.

## **Fees**

### 1. Design phase

1 – 4 water closets, urinals and showers	\$60
5 – 10 water closets, urinals and showers	\$80
More than 10 water closets, urinals and showers	\$100

### 2. Maintenance phase

Toilet inspection training session	\$100 per session (Maximum 10 participants)
Toilet cleaning training session	\$240-300 per session (8-10 participants)

### 3. Education phase

Workshops for 3 target groups	\$50 per session
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## ANNEX B

### A Guide to Better Public Toilet Design and Maintenance

#### Background

This new guide published by the Restroom Association (Singapore) or RAS provides preschools with information about good design, maintenance and education. Although preschool toilets are not covered under the National Environment Agency's (NEA) Code of Practice on Environmental Health (COPEH), preschools are strongly encouraged to adopt the guidelines. The COPEH stipulates the minimum basic design criteria to address public health concerns while the Building and Construction Authority's (BCA) Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment places greater emphasis on universal design concepts and provisions to benefit a wider spectrum of people including preschoolers. This Guide however covers some of the best practices and good examples of preschool toilet design, maintenance and education.

#### Key Features

This guide contains three main sections namely Design, Maintenance and Education.

##### 1. DESIGN

- Installation of sensor-operated appliances is discouraged if wastage due to preschoolers playing with the appliances is anticipated. Installation of manual-operated appliances can nurture and promote independence of preschoolers.
- All flush controls at a height of between 500mm to 900mm from the floor (*BCA code*)
- Urinal should be mounted at a height of not more than 400mm. (*BCA code*)
- Urinals should be separated by modesty boards of not less than 300mm x 1200mm. The presence of modesty boards will help to educate preschoolers about protecting their own privacy from a young age.
- The height of the Water Closet (WC) seat is between 250mm to 350mm. (*BCA code*)
- For privacy sake, WC cubicles should be at least 700mm (width) x 1300mm (length). Cubicle partitions should extend to within 50 mm from the floor. Partitions between cubicles should extend to at least 1400 mm above the floor level.
- If there is high likelihood of injuries of preschoolers due to door-slamming incidents, doors should be replaced with opaque shower curtains or folded doors as a safety measure.
- Shower cubicles should be at least 700mm (width) x 1300mm (length) for preschoolers who can shower by themselves.
- Shower cubicles should be at least 1000mm (width) x 1500mm (length) for preschoolers who need to be showered by accompanying adults.
- The height of the shower controls should be located at a height of between 500mm to 900mm from the floor.
- Paper towel dispensers are encouraged to prevent preschoolers playing with the electronic hand-dryer.
- The use of liquid sanitizers instead of cakes and tablets as a safety measure.
- As a safety measure, hooks should have no projection and affix behind cubicle doors at a height of about 500mm. If doors are not available, towel bars affixed to the wall or cubicle should be provided.
- Guidelines on ventilation, plumbing and sewerage system.
- Security measures on lighting, concealment and piping.

## 2. MAINTENANCE

- NEA's pictorial guide on sequence of cleaning
- Green cleaning detergents
- WSQ Perform Basic Cleaning of Washrooms
- RAS restroom inspection training
- NEA's Enhanced Clean Mark Accreditation Scheme
- Guidelines on better water use efficiency and water wastage prevention

## 3. EDUCATION

- Toilet Educational Materials
- Happy Toilets @ Preschools Programme