

## CIRCLE OF CARE (2016) ANNEX

### 1. What is “Circle of Care”

Launched in 2013, the Circle of Care (CoC) is a project catalysed and funded by the Lien Foundation in two Care Corner childcare centres - Admiralty and Leng Kee (both centres are now under MY World Preschool). It pilots a child-centric model of care where early childhood educators, social workers and educational therapists look after the children’s holistic development, and the needs of their families, in an integrated way. It aims to improve outcomes for preschoolers and their families, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, so that they can integrate confidently into school and community systems.

Under the programme, many of the children showed marked improvements in class participation. They expressed greater confidence, responded positively to music, literacy and numeracy programmes, as well as the extra personal attention given to them.

With positive outcomes and benefits to children under the programme, especially for those at-risk, Circle of Care is now being extended to a total of 9 preschools and scaled up to involve two partner primary schools.

#### a. **The Integrated Child Centric Circle of Care**



## 2. Who are Involved?

<b>Catalyst and funder</b>	<b>Lien Foundation</b>
<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Dr Khoo Kim Choo, Early Childhood expert</b>
<b>Programme Developer</b>	<b>Care Corner Singapore Limited</b>
<b>Circle of Care Partner Preschools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Currently 9 in 2016</b></li> <li>– <b>At least 15 by 2018</b></li> </ul>	<b>MY World Preschools</b> – 5 schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MY World Preschool @ Admiralty</li> <li>• MY World Preschool @ Lengkee</li> <li>• MY World Preschool@ Pasir Ris</li> <li>• MY World Preschool @ Sembawang Drive</li> <li>• MY World Preschool @ Tampines Changkat</li> </ul> <b>PCF (PAP Community Foundation)</b> – 2 schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Taman Jurong Blk 161</li> <li>• PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Taman Jurong Blk 352</li> </ul> <b>PPIS (Singapore Muslim Women’s Association)</b> – 2 schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPIS Child Development Centre Bukit Batok</li> <li>• PPIS Child Development Centre Jurong</li> </ul>
<b>Expanded COC Outreach from 2016</b>	<b>Over 1700 preschoolers</b>
<b>COC Partner Primary Schools</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gan Eng Seng Primary</li> <li>2. Lakeside Primary</li> </ol>
<b>COC Team (17)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Centre Manager</li> <li>1 Team Leader</li> <li>8 Social Workers</li> <li>3 COC Coordinators</li> <li>3 Programme Staff</li> <li>1 Administrator</li> </ul>

### 3. COC Milestones

<b>Feb 2013</b>	Launch of Circle of Care in Care Corner’s Admiralty and Leng Kee Childcare Development Centres
<b>2014</b>	Update on the Progress of Circle of Care (media announcement)  Pioneer batch of COC graduands
<b>2015</b>	Care Corner transfers its five child development centres, including Admiralty and Leng Kee, to MY World’s preschools  COC pilots Primary School Transition Programme for 13 children and their families
<b>2016</b>	COC expands to 7 more preschools, bringing total of preschools to 9  COC’s Primary School Transition Programme expands to two primary schools
<b>By 2018</b>	COC aims to expand to at least 6 more preschools, bringing the total of COC Partner Preschools to at least 15

### 4. What does it cost

<b>a</b>	<b>Total investment by Lien Foundation and Care Corner</b>	S\$4.34 million over 3 years
<b>b</b>	<b>Total investment by Care Corner</b>	S\$500,000
<b>c</b>	<b>Monthly cost of supporting at-risk child</b>	About \$125 to \$165 per child (excluding education therapy services)

### 5. Children at risk under COC from 2013 - 2015

<b>Total Number of COC children at-risk</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Number of COC at-risk children who required both Social Work Support and Educational Therapy Service (ETS)</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Number of COC at-risk children who required ETS only</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Number of COC at-risk children who required Social Work Support only</b>	<b>24</b>

## 6. Improvements & Gains achieved by Circle of Care

### a. Rise in Parental Involvement

Since COC was launched in MY World @ Leng Kee and MY World @ Admiralty in 2013, the level of parents' Involvement in the children's education has grown from strength to strength

**Table 6a: Average Parent Participation Rate in Parent-Teacher Conferences in the two pioneer COC centres from 2013-2015**

Year	Leng Kee	Admiralty
2013	32%	64%
2014	30%	80%
2015	54%	88%

*Note: The COC Social Worker works closely with teachers to support parent participation in PTC. For active cases, the social worker will have conversations with parents to prepare them for PTC with teachers. COC also organises Workshops for parents on topics like Parent-Child bonding and Transition to Primary School.*

COC Social Workers based in preschools help reduce the stigma families may associate with seeking assistance and provide a closer point of access to such information for the parents. Their regular presence also gives better access to Social Work support, thereby resulting in natural monitoring, observation and intervention (modelling) for all teachers and children

### b. Progress in Literacy and Numeracy skills

**Majority (over 70%) of children undergoing early intervention improved in literacy and numeracy skills.**

**Table 6b: K1 Children's Performance in School Readiness Programme (SRP)**

Year	Number of Children who Required Additional Literacy and Numeracy Support	Literacy	Numeracy
		Number (%) Improved	Number (%) Improved
2013*	-	-	-
2014	8	6 (75%)	8 (100%)
2015	8	8 (100%)	6 (75%)

*\* In 2013, students started late for the programme and there were changes made for both the pre and post programme assessments.*

**Table 6c: K2 Children’s Performance in School Readiness Programme (SRP)**

Year	Number of Children who Required Additional Literacy and Numeracy Support	Literacy	Numeracy
		Number (%) Improved	Number (%) Improved
2013	11	8 (73%)	9 (82%)
2014	16	16 (100%)	16 (100%)
2015	16	13 (81%)	12 (75%)

## 7. Case Study

### ***How Circle of Care weaves a holistic sphere of support around the child***

Seven-year old Jo\* had a hard time reading and writing. In school, he related to his teachers about his father hitting his mother. Jo and his family faced several issues – physical abuse, financial distress, unemployment and poor health. His parents’ different parenting styles and unmet expectations made things worse.

The COC team’s assessment revealed that Jo was emotionally affected and confused by the turmoil and quarrels at home. His older sister, Ally was just as distressed. Sometimes, Jo would even get aggressive with his classmates. To help him, the COC Social Worker, educational therapists, as well as his principal and teachers worked together as a team to address Jo’s behavioural and emotional issues. Through art and play sessions with the COC Social Worker in a safe environment, Jo learnt to regulate his emotions and express them healthily. He also learnt how and where to seek help for support.

In addition, the COC Social Worker brainstormed with Jo’s parents and supported them in thinking of ways to resolve their issues, avoid family violence and identify ways to manage their anger and mutual expectations. They learnt how to improve their parenting skills - like creating more structure for the children at home, creating earlier bedtimes, and coaching the children in their studies, as well as managing their expectations of Jo and Ally.

Most importantly, the COC Social Worker kept Jo’s parents engaged in his development and learning. This led Jo to attend childcare regularly and his parents getting involved in the school’s activities. The COC team also connected the couple to community resources such as the Social Service Office, Family Violence Specialist Centre, Student Care Centre, and Family Service Centre near their home. Things started getting better for the family.

Under COC’s School Readiness Programme, Jo’s skills in numeracy and literacy improved rapidly. He spoke more confidently, and as his reading and writing skills progressed, his self-esteem increased too. Since his graduation in K2, Jo’s parents have consented to him being on COC’s P1 transition programme. The COC team is continuing their work with Jo to ease his transition into his primary school and support his family in the new phase.

\* not his real name.