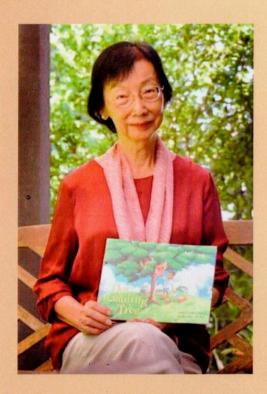
KHOO KIM CHOO

Pioneering educator and early childhood development specialist



"My mantra is to be able to do the highest good for the most number of children and families, wherever they are, in my own small way." Khoo Kim Choo is a pioneer of early childhood development and education in Singapore. She played a key role in the transformation and growth of the sector, spearheading several projects in the 1980s and 1990s that laid the foundations for its professionalisation and the raising of standards. In the 1980s, the preschool industry was not well developed. There was no central authority overseeing the sector, which comprised kindergartens, and a few creches where the staff had little if any training. Returning from the US after her doctorate, Kim Choo joined NTUC Childcare as their child development specialist. With funding support from the Netherlands' Bernard van Leer Foundation, she launched three projects over the next decade that transformed the sector. The most significant was the establishment of the Regional Training and Resource Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education, which created a pipeline of trainers and trained staff. Today, largely because of Kim Choo's efforts, there is a wide and expanding range of childcare facilities in Singapore, and a growing pool of well-trained childcare staff and early childhood development specialists. Apart from the 16 years she spent with the NTUC Childcare Services group, where she was the first CEO, Kim Choo has been consultant, advisor, university lecturer, specialist volunteer, and author of academic, professional, parenting, and children's books. In 2000, she led a Singapore International Foundation team to Vietnam to train trainers in early childhood education. In 2004, she led a team to Myanmar where, over the next decade, they trained 65 Myanmar preschool trainers, who then trained 13,000 preschool teachers.

SINGAPORE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

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